AMMAN (J.T.) - Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left for Baghdad early Tuesday after an overnight stay in Amman during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Arafat, who also held a joint meeting with the King and former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, will meet with Iraqi leaders as well as Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov, before returning to Amman to attend a meeting of world statesmen and political and religious leaders in Amman this week, sources said.

Volume 16 Number 4625

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AMMAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1991, RAJAB 28, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirham

Iraq under fiercest aerial assault

Ministries bombed, casualties mount

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED AIR strikes hit two government ministries Tuesday. A senior official said Iraq was being systematically destroyed.

Casualties are mounting, in-cluding six people reported killed to the latest raids. The city also is losing its sewer system due to bomb damage, raising fears of serious health hazards.

The National Assembly speaker, Saadi Mehdi Saleh, declared that Iraq's army had retained its "lethal developed weapons" despite the allied raids. He advised U.S. troops to avoid "certain death" by leaving the Gulf.

One of President Saddam Husscin's deputies called on Arab and Muslim sympathisers to go beyond protests and demonstrations and destroy the toterests of nations in the anti-Iraq alliance.

Demonstrations and rallies should not stop at extending a memorandum of protest or burning efficies, but to burn whatever is related to forces of aggression. on the installations of the countries that are taking part in the aggression," Taba Yassin Ramadan, President Saddam's deputy as prime minister, was quoted by the government daily Al Jomhur-

"It is the duty of all Arabs and Muslims to destroy the material clements of evil and aggression all over the Arab arena." he said.

Mr. Ramadan coupled his call with an Iraci piedge of determination to fight to the finish.

"Either we die as martyrs or achieve victory. We will never choose

surrender," he said. Air and missile attacks on Iraq were "within our calculations... the aim of the aggression is to limit Iraq's

fighting capability and its military industrialisation," he added. Mr. Ramadan bitterly attacked French President Francois Mitterrand

for siding with the United States and described the position as painful. "It is painful for us to see France's position. Mitterrand's administration

has turned to be not only France's

ered 1.5 million Algerians but it took France back to being a tail of the U.S. administration," he said.

Baghdad Radio reported early Tuesday that President Saddam had held a meeting with senior officials of the ruling Revolutionary Command

The radio report did not say when the meeting was held, where or what was discussed.

Those attending included council chairman Izzat Ibrahim, Ramadan, Speaker Salem, Culture and Information Minister Latif Jasim and Minister of Industry and Military Industrialisa-tion Hussein Kamil Hassan, the radio

It was the second time in three days that President Saddem convened a meeting of his inner circle. No details were provided of the Sunday meet-

Military communiques said Tues-day that the U.S.-led allies had lannday that the U.S.-led aines had imm-ched 96 more air raids on military and civilian targets, including a maternity hospital, but declared their bombs and missiles had not harmed its armed might.

The Irani army "has managed to maintain Ita lethal, developed

weapons and the morale of its fighters and their high state of readiness to fight the enemies," Speaker Saleh

was quoted as saying.

Baghdad Radio quoted a military spokesman as saying that nearly one-third of the allied sorties Monday night were directed at civilian targets.

Enemy aircraft attacked a number

of automobile and pedestrian bridges, a general hospital, a maternity hospital, a numery, civilian cars, a wooden bridge, a water storage tank and ten occupied by nomada," it said. Allied planes fired on "civilia

houses and shops in a number of residential ucighbourhoods in some cities and villages," the radio said.

Also hit, the spokesman said, were "military targets in the southern op-erations sector" — a reference to southern Iraq and Kuwait.

Trag has so far given few details on weeks of intensive bombing but the dead and wounded are believed to be

Mr. Salch, quoted by Baghdad Radio said the armed forces "sup-

(Continued on page 5)

RALLY IN SOUTH: Residents of the southern town of Karak Tuesday stage a demonstration in support of Iraq and in protest against the aillied war on Iraq (see page 3).

Bush says land war can wait, Primakov in but army on combat position Hammadi sees possible U.S. ruse

U.S. PRESIDENT Bush says a Gulf ground war can wait, but thousands of his marines are taking up combat positions against

Iraq.
Military analysts weighed Mr. Bush'a public declaration not to rush and keep the allied air assault going "for awhile" against a powerful combination of strategic and political factors they

said might force his hand. They also said his apparent shying away from a quick decision to throw more than half a ported by the Iraqi people, are today million alllied troops into battle could be a smokescreen to send

> the wrong signals, to Iraq. Mr. Bush, after consulting his top military advisers, said Monday the air war was going so well that a ground attack was not yet needed.
> But while the talk to Washington was for possibly several more weeks of air bombardment to soften up Iraqi nocs, reporters on the front line

A pooled press report said thousands of men, carrying the minimen equipment needed for combat, were taking up forward positions in forholes a two-boar drive from Kuwait City.

A senior Iraqi envoy said Tuesday Mr. Bush's remarks indicating an allied land offensive was not imminent could be a ruse.

If it were such an attempt, Iraq was ready to handle it, Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi told a news conference in Algiers.

"If this battle happens today or tomorrow then welcome. We are ready to foil it." Dr. Hammadi said. He called for Arab and Muslim states to form a front to help Iraq in the Gulf war, saying differences over Kuwaii could be resolved later. Arabs and Muslims should also help Iraq by striking at the interests of countries

allied against Baghdad.

Echoing comments in Baghdad Tuesday by Frist Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Dr. Hammadi said, "the field must be opened to the masses in the Arab and Islamic world to take a bigger role in

Combined agency dispetches attack positions ahead of an expected resisting aggression.

The participation of the Arab and

forms, surpassing the stage of protests and condemnation of the war to attacks against the interests of the American coalition." Dr. Hammadi is on a North African tour and made his remarks after talks with President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, whose population overwhelmingly backs

The Iraqi minister called on Arab and Muslim states to boycott economically, diplomatically and in all fields" the 28 countries to the U.S.led coalition fighting to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

What we must work for is to unify a front. If there are differences on questions such as Kuwait we can resolve them among ourselves. We must avoid at any price any division of the Arab-Islamic front against the

Algeria and other North African countries have denounced the war against Iraq but also demanded it withdraw from Knwait. Dr. Hammadi said Iraq did not rule

Baghdad, Dumas in Moscow Combined agency dispatches

SOVIET ENVOY Yevgeney Primakov waited to Baghdad Tuesday for a toceting with President Saddam Hussein, but there was no indication when the encounter would take place.

Mr. Primakov, who arrived late Monday, toured the Iraqi capital to assess the damages caused by 26 days of intense allied air raids, which are seen as the main reason behind Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's dispatch of his envoy to Baghdad. Mr. Primakov left his hotel

three hours Tuesday but said on his return: "I have nothing to tell, I saw nobody." Two hours after Mr. Primakov arrived in Baghdad, more than 25

with the Soviet ambassador for

explosions from allied strikes rocked the city centre. Spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko

told a new conference to Moscow that the main purpose of the trip by Mr. Primakov was "to convince Iraq to implement the U.N. resolutions."

"The Sovit Union still supports the United States but President Gorbachev is free to state his own

convictions," he said. In a weekend statement, Mr. Gorbachev expreessed concren at the magnitude of civilian casual-

ties and damage caused by allied attacks on Iraq.
Mr. Gorbachev said the U.S.-

led allied forces could exceed the United Nations mandate to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

He called for a quick end to the war and sent Primakov to Baghdad on a mission to persuade President Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait and spare his coun-

try further "punishment." French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas began talks on the Gulf war with the Soviet leadership on Tuesdy.

Mr. Dumas, scheduled to meet President Gorbachev during his day to Moscow, was the first foreign minister from a member of the anti-Iraq coalition to visit the Soviet capital since war

erupted in the Gulf Jan. 17. "I hope to hold very toteresting and useful talks with Mr. Gorbachev... on Gulf crisis and other important issues." Mr. Dumas told the official TASS news agency at the airport

The reformist Izvestia evening newspaper said Monday Mr. Dumas would seek clarification of latest Soviet views on the Gulf

The Kremlin has told Mr. Primakov to ask Baghdad for any information about a U.S. television news crew missing since Jan.

21. the official spokesman said. The spokesman told reporters that Mr. Primakov's instructions included an inquiry about the

(Continued on page 5)

Crown Prince restates Jordan's commitment to peace, neutrality "beyond dispute," Prince Hassan

LONDON (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has reaffirmed Jordan's firm commitment to peace and neutrality to the Gulf war.

In an article to the liberal Guardian newspaper, Crown Prince Hassan said Iraq's territorial claims to some Kuwaiti territory "are not without founda-

A Feb. 6 speech by His Majesty King Hussein, in which be accused the U.S.-led allies of trying to destroy Iraq and impose Western control over the Middle East, was interpreted as a sharp tilt towards Iraq by Jordan, which has sought a mediating role in the conflict.

U.S. President George Bush said King Hussein had moved way over toto (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's camp."

But Crown Prince Hassan said Jordan remained firmly neutral. "Our allegiance to peace does not put us in any camp except that of

peace." Jordan "has repeatedly stressed the need to mobilise all efforts in the search for a diplomatic solution based on inter-

national law," he said. Such a solution meant Iraq

must withdraw from Kuwait as

But "it cannot be said that Iraqi territorial claims on some Kuwaiti territory are not without foundation. These claims predate President Saddam (Hussein), and it is a fact that he had taken more steps to finalise border delimitations than any of his predeces-

The Prince added that evidence of Kuwait's overproduction of oil in violation of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) oil-output quotas "is incontestable." Kuwait and Iraq are both members of OPEC.

"It is equally incontestable that the catastrophic effects of such over-production on Iraq's ecooomy - and ultimately on the very integrity of the state - could oot have escaped the ootice of Kuwaiti authorities," be said.

He noted that "some evidence suggests" Kuwait's overproduction was part of "an international attempt to weakeo Iraq" and that, if true, such an attempt could constitute "economic aggression" on Iraq.

The Prince also accused the allies of failing to explore all peaceful means to resolve the Kuwait's sovereignty was crisis.

Baker seeks to promote Syrian-Israeli talks

Combined agency dispatches

OFFICIALS OF President George Bush, seizing on Syria's improved relations with the United States, are asking Israel to consider seeking an agreement with Damascus to demilitarise the Golan Heights, sources disclosed Monday.

The idea behind the proposal, which was advanced recently by Secretary of State James Baker to Zalmao Shoval, the Israeli ambassador, is to engage Syria in

Mideast negotiations. The talks would be held at the conclusion of the Gulf war as a first step towards a wider settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Syria has joined the coalition fighting Iraq in the war.

The Israeli government bas not rejected the initiative hut its interest in it was said to be limited, according to the sources. Some U.S. officials were du-

bious, meanwhile, that Syria would be willing to consider even a partial deal with Israel. President Hafez Al Assad has boycotted all U.S. diplomatic initiatives in the Middle East since 1974. The U.S. proposal over Golan,

which surfaced as Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens held a busy round of talks, would not require Israel to relinquish more of the Golan Heights to Syria. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Israel is anxious to

move ahead with Middle East peace moves based on an assessment that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) pro-Iraq stand has ruled it out of the process. "Israel is ready to negotiate

without preconditions with all neighbouring Arah states," Mr. Levy told a news conference.

(Continued on page 2)

Oil slick growing, threatens fishery Combined agency dispatches pools where many of Saudi Ara-

AN OIL SLICK, bay-hopping down the Sandi coast, is expected to extend its black swath over

one of Saudi Arabia's main shrimp nurseries in the next day. officials said Tuesday. The cost of fighting the effects

of the oil slick is expected to be about \$1 billion over the next six months, government officials And one Saudi source pre-

dicted Gulf Arab states might have to fork out up to \$5 billion to clean the semi-enclosed waterway, its shoreline and protect

"To do something about the gulf as a whole over the next five to 10 years could be anything around \$5 billion," the source

old Reuters. After devastating Manifah

Bay, home to cormorants, pristine beaches and rich sea beds. the slick rounded a peninsula and headed south into Dafi Bay, one of the most important ecological areas along the coast, environ-mental officials said.

"It's sneaking around the corner," one American specialist said. "We expect it to be on shore sometime within the next day. The specialist, who like other sources spoke on coodition of anonymity, said winds from the

skimmers to Jubail to further protect the plant.

already forced the elosure for at least three days of one desalination plant in Safaniyah, to the

north. That plant has reopened, An official from Saudi Arabia's Meteorological and Environmental Protection Agency said he was

not sure the Juhail plant could be "We're doing the best we can to protect it, but that might not

in an attempt to fight the slick. Shutting Jubail could force the kingdom to ration water in the capital, Riyadh.

the clock, sleeping in their offices

Israelis want to enter open war

Combined agency dispatches PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Shamir warned on Tuesday hours after Iraq'a 13th missile attack on Israel that his government could not hold off idefinitely from retaliating to the attacks.

we shall do so tomorrow," he told a group of visiting foreign Jews. The Iraqi missile, which hit at about 1:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Monday) destroyed a house, and damaged about 190 other houses

One person was buried in rubble but extricated with minor injuries, and five others also were slightly injured, the army said. It was the second missile hit from Iraq in less than seven hours. It punched a deep crater in

standing in an adjacent house. The blast cut power and phone lines, punctured water pipes and sheared branches off trees. A car also flipped on its back, and windows and roof tiles were strewn for several hundred yards

"We shall always use the appropriate means to achieve our toal of security," Mr. Shamir idded in his speech to foreign

ewish leaders. He also noted the 1981 bombing of raq's Osirak nuclear reactor, saying was done "to deprive this evil man

m Monday by Tel Aviv Mayor ilomo Lamat, who said there was to national leadership in this war id demanded an explanation of how og the missile crisis would last. Defence Minister Moshe Arens to told Israeli reporters in Washing a that Israeli patience was "running

Mr. Shamir noted this again, saying, "because we are not alone in the struggle against Iraq, we have to take account of the circums the timing of anything we do and coordinate any plans we have with our friend and ally, the United

a visit to Tuesday's attack site. But he added "there is value in declaring that if for example the Iraqis use ch weapons, Israel would change its re-

An Israeli official said Mr. Arens had sought U.S. approval for Israel to play a role in attacking Iraqi missile

Perence Secretary Dick Chency and ecretary of State James Baker. He has due to return later Tuesday. An aide to Mr. Shamir who requested anonymity told Reuters:
"We are waiting for Arens to give a

withheld permission for the Jewish

cant contribution" to eli ing missile launchers in western Iraq, bombed repeatedly by U.S. and affied planes since war began on Jac. 17. But Israeli officials say Israel cannot act without U.S. coordination.

Asked if he told U.S. officials that Israel could not refrain from retalisting for Iraqi missile attacks much longer, Mr. Arens told Israel Televi-

Opposition leader Shimon Peres also uged Mr. Shamir to continue

withholding retaliation.
"We have no choice," Mr. Peres,
the head of the Labour Party said, on

Mr. Arens was in Washington for talks with President George Bush, Defence Secretary Dick Chency and

standing for our need to and this threats." full report, we hope there is under-

Israelis believe Washington had state to enter the war, feating an attack could disrupt the Western-Arab coalition against Iraq.

Mr. Arens said Israel could make a

Washington is reported to have with-held "friend or foe" codes needed to prevent an accidental clash between israeli and allied aircraft over Iraq.

"I do not think that I used precisely that expression, but it's important that they understand that it is not simple to restrain ourselves in these

(Continued on page 2) said U.S. marines were moving into Syria agrees to sell oil to Jordan at market prices

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - Syriz has agreed to sell oil to Jordan to make up for the shortfalls from Iraq and the initial purchases of the Kingdom will be around 8,000 berreis of diesel every day at international prices, official

sources said Tuesday. The formal announcement of the greement was made by the Minister of Energy and Mineral Re-sources, Thabet Al Taher, who said the Syrian bureau of oil marketing had endorsed accords reached in the first week of Febru-ary between delegations from both

Under the agreement Syria "will sell to Jordan quantities of fuel oil and gasoline... at world market prices," the announcement said. It dded that the Syrians were studying the possibility of selling crude oil to Jordan in view of the lack of facilities at Syrian oilfields to load crude onto tankers. The statement did not give any

figures, but an official source said Jordan intended to procure around 1,200 tons (8,840 barrels) of distillate fuel oil (diesel) for heating purposes and operating feel-run wer generators every day. According to the source, Jor-dan's needs of fuel oil were around 3,000 toos (22,110 barrels) per day before the Kingdom adopted energy conservation measures.

"Our daily consumption has gone down by 25 per cent to 30 per

cent since 1989," when it was around a total of 60,000 barrels per day, including crude oil, diesel and some other oil derivatives, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The source said Jordan con-

tinned to get "part of its oil needs"

from Iraq, but he declined to quan-

tify the supply.

Oil experts said Iraq was supplying about 40,000 barrels of oil ties were hit in allied bombardment which began Jan. 17 and warplanes ferrying oil from Iraq to the King-

According to other sources, Jordan plans to import crude oil from Syria to make up for the decline in Iraqi supplies after facilities have been set up- to load tankers bound for the Jordanian refinery at Zarqa from Syrian fields.

During the next one month we would be able to familiarise with and adapt ourselves to the process of transporting oil from Syria," said an official at the refinery. No official figures were available on the price that Jordan would pay for its oil purchases from Syria. One report suggested \$22 per bar-rel, but the source discounted it

term pricing stipulations in the Under a special deal dating back to 1989, Jordan was getting Iraqi oil at \$16.4 per barrel and the supply was made as resettlement of Baghdad's debts to Amman. The U.N. Security Council, which imposed a trade embargo on Iraq after the Ang. 2 Iraq takeover of Kuwait, was informed of the purch-

saying that there was no "long-

from its foreign exchange reserves but also to pay an extra \$15 million every month if it were to switch completely to alternate oil sup-

Oil industry sources quoted in

ters say Syria produces

- According to economists, Jordan

would be forced not only to draw

around 450,000 barrels of crude oil per day - about one third of h eavy. It could easily meet all of Jordan's needs depending on the Kingdom's adaptation to the quality and nature of the Syrian production and transportation facilities as well as ability to pay in cash for the A senior official meanwhile con-

100,000-tonne oil tanker for \$7.5 million and that the vessel was expected to dock at Aqaba before the end of the month The vessel is vital to Jordan's efforts to have contingency plans in place to ensure its oil supply from other sources, including Yemen as

firmed that Jordan had bought a

well as Iran, which has openly indicated its willingness to meet Jordan's needs. An editorial carried by the Tehran Times earlier this week said Jordan's "stance in protesting against the West for the killing of Muslim people in Iraq and for adopting a rather more indepen-

dent policy in relation to the West should be praised." Noting that Washington was threatening to cut off aid to Jordan as a punishment for the Kingdom's position on the Gulf crisis, me editorial said that "the West, smarting under the rebuff from an erstwhile ally, is now seeking to find measures to punish Jordan for its new stance." "Iran needs to bein Jordan's Muslim people according to Islamic and revolutionary codes and supply

Jordan with the oil it requi

said the Tehran Times, which is seen to reflect the thinking of President Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani. The editorial coincided with a visit to Tehran of members of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood.

bia's shrimp are harvested. The crude could be bottled up within the confines of the large bay, be said.

protect our desalination plants further south but it will ruin the bay," he said. "It's an important ecological space, way more important that Manifah Bay." Dafi Bay is one bay north of

"That will buy us more time to

Jubail, the site of the world's largest desalination plant and key petroleum industries. Officials Tuesday said workers continued to rush oil hooms and

The slick, one of three threatening the Gulf coast, has

bee good enough," he said. He said officials were working round

north would push the sliek onto the beaches, sullying rich tidal

Visit brack has vowed to take action

e semi

"If today we exercise restraint, it does not necessarily mean that or apartments in a prosperous neighbourhood in central Israel.

the earth, leaving only a chimney

Mr. Shamir's remarks underscored growing unessiness in Israel at the totracted missile alert. A symptom

Athens mayor: Baghdad faces epidemics threat

By Alex Efty The Associated Press

AMMAN --- The mayor of Athens bas called for urgent international action to save Baghdad from the threat of deadly epidemics caused by the Gulf

Antonis Tritsis, who returned Monday from a two-day visit to Baghdad, said the threat stemmed from overflowing sewage and contaminated drinking wa-

"You have four million people drinking contaminated water, the sewage coming up to the surface, something that can lead to an epidemic of an extraordinary scale." be said in an interview.

"I don't think these people deserve that, no matter what their government can be charged with, or whatever the cause of the war, or injustice on one side or

"These four million people should be protected. They need the help of the international community, of the United States ... to avert this great health hazard."

Mr. Tristis argued that electric power needed to be restored to the capital immediately so that the water and sewage systems can

The Athens mayor, assessing the mood of the people in Baghdad, said they seemed even more determined to resist after four

weeks of bombardment. "They are suffering, but they feel deeply that some injustice has befallen them and they become more stubborn and determined about it. This is a frightening thing because they know that they are facing an extraordinary power that can eliminate anything, and they are reacting in an

angry way," be said.

Mr. Tritsis said that after a bombing raid Saturday night thousands of people turned out Sunday morning to inspect the damage to one of the bridges over the Tigris River.

"They were cursing and shouting against the bombing, declaring their determination to resist. They appeared ready to lynch their enemies.

"I had a feeling of fear that this hell can go on for a long time." said Mr. Tristis.

He said that because of the lack of fuel "people have started chopping down the trees lining the avenues, ruining the beautiful

"They have oo choice: it is as if they are in a state of siege."
Mr. Tritsis visited Baghdad as

part of a tour of 11 historic Mediterranean and Middle East-ern capital cities to promote his initiative for the establishment of a permanent forum of their

The idea is so that we can start communicating first as mayors, among ourselves, and deal with our cities' problems in war or in peace," he said.

Mr. Tritsis served as both economics and environment minister in the former Socialist governmeet of Premier Andreas Papan-

He resigned to protest the involvement of other ministers in financial scandals.

Following his visits to Amman and Baghdad he plans to visit Beirut, Cairo, Damascos. Kuwait, Nicosia, Tehran, Tel

Desert Storm moves no Saudi landmark

By Peter Bale Reuter

BAHRAIN --- The idea that jeep-driving American women soldiers will make for a new liberal, democratie, Saudi Arabia is a fallacy, according to a prominent Saudi diplomat and intellec-

Ghazi Al Gosaibi told Reuters Americans and conservative Saudis overrated the cultural impact of Operation Desert Storm if they thought it would leave a lasting impression on Islamic

"I think this is a pipe dream for those who wish it or for those who are alraid of it, Mr. Gosaibi, Riyadh's ambassador to Bahrain, said in an interview Sunday.

"This society has very strong convictions and a very strong tradition." be said. "It will evolve in its own way, impervious to a temporary presence. How long are they going to stay, a few months. The desert has seen greater things come and go."

Change brought by the Gulf war to push Iraq from Kuwait will oot be sparked by liberal-minded U.S. troops but by growing confidence among Gulf states, be said.

The home of the two holiest shrines in Islam, Saudi Arabia bad many pressures and responsibilities both domestically and from the rest of the Islamic World.

"Our own society will determine the pace," Mr. Gosaibi said.

Gestures like that last November when 39 Riyadh women gave their chauffeurs the day off and drove their cars were in danger of inflaming strict fundamentalist Saudis.

"This was a very stupid thing, bordering oo insanity for a limited oumber of ladies to attempt to drive ... all they did was antagonise the population and all it did was raise unjustified fears in some members of the society, distorting the total overall progress we have achieved. Mr. Gosaibi said.

A former minister for industry and for health in the Saudi goveromeot, Mr. Gosaibi said

women had made great advances

in Saudi society over the past 20

More than one million young women had gone through school since 1965 wheo none had been permitted to attend. Saudi Arabia bad many women doctors, civil servants and engineers.

This we did without the presence of American and multinational forces," Mr. Gosaibi said. "We did it in our own fashion, we did it through dialogue."

Mr. Gosaibi said Saodi Arabia was deeply misunderstood by the Western world which equated fundamentalist with extremist and an oil-based economy with greedy oil sheikhs in bogus states. The Gulf war was proving the legitimacy of Gulf kingdoms, emirates and sultanates, not their

weakness. This crisis, which is as violent as any society could expect is proving that these societies are viable," he said.

"Where ever you turn in the Gulf you find confidence... that our people can fight, for the first time we entered large-scale battles, for the first time our pilots are engaging in aerial combat, for the first time we have proved that these are not artificial entities," Mr. Gosaibi said.

These are societies with deep roots. These are not oil sheikhs getting their legitimacy through oil. These are governments that have been there for years --- the Al Sabah have been in Kuwait for

250 years," he said. Mr. Gosarbi questioned predictions of a surge for democracy among Guf states and Saodi Arabia once Iraq was driven out of

Kuwait. The Saudi royal family headed by King Fahd was already respoosive to public opinion through petitions, local courts and the Islamic Sharia legal

'We don't need democracy io the Western sense... we have a different tradition of consen-

sus...." Mr. Gosaibi said. Saudis were satisfied with their lot and building a new predomioantly middle class society, be

Sabah regime rules out parliament

return MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) -Kuwait's ousted government bas ruled out a quick return of the parliament it dissolved in 1986, setting itself on a collision course with pro-democracy activists.

In Monday's announcement, the toppled government also refused the activists' request for speedy elections in a Knwait freed from Iraqi control.

The activists accused the ruling Al Sabah family of hreaking its promise to bring democracy to a free Kuwait and said they would sooo meet to form a 60-member oational froot that will challenge the Al Sabahs.

Ahmad Al Khatib, an opposition leader and former parhamentarian, said he was surprised by the government anoounce-

"I never expected they would say something like this in public," he said by telephone from London. "We always expected they would wait until we were all hack in Kuwait."

The announcement was made at the toppled government's headquarters in Taif, Saudi Arabia, by its minister of ioformation, Bader Al Yacoub.

"We will be entering a country which is devastated and destroyed by the enemy," be said in a statement. "It is not possible to conduct elections on the spot and we may need a martial law government.

Oppositioo leaders bad said they believed the Sabah regime intended to set up a martial law government to preside over Kuwait's "reconstruction." That, they say, violates the country's 1962 constitution.

The opposition bas also demanded elections within six months of a return to Kuwait. Mr. Yacoub said setting an election date "would be up to the political leadership."

The government's announcement exacerbated political divisions that have been simmering since the war beganon Jan. 17.

Two weeks ago, opposition fi-gures accused it of reneging on promises to move towards democracy made during a conference in October in Jeddah, Saudi Ara-At the conference, the two

sides shelved their differences and agreed to work for the liberation of Kuwait under the leadership of the emir, Sbeikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, whose family has ruled what is now Kuwait since 1759.

Opposition figures now say they feel they have been used by the ruling family in its attempts to gain legitimacy in the eyes of Kuwaitis. "We are nothing but window-dressing," Mr. Khatib

If the sbaky alliance between the ruling family and opposition collapses, Kuwait could face difficulties in rebuilding and face political turmoil, a prospect with implications for the whole region.

One fear is that a serious challenge to the Al Sabah family would be imitated by opposition groups in oeighbouring nations whose populations have recently been exposed to Western culture and politics as never before.

The Gulf, which sits atop 60 per cent of the wold's oil reserves, is dominated by countries like Saudi Arabia that are ruled hy hereditary dynasties.

Kuwait once boasted the Arab World's only free press and freely elected parliament, although only 62,000 males out of an estimated 750,000 Kuwaitis could vote. In 1986, however, the Al Sabahs dissolved the national assembly that had been elected the previous year and slapped restrictions on the press.

It said then that a spate of bombings by pro-Iranian extremists and an aborted attempt on the emir's life made parliament a dangerous luxury.

U.S. soldiers confront another enemy --- fear

KHAFJI, Sandi Arabia (AP) -Trembling, Jeff Brown recounted how he hid from Iraqi patrols while on reconnaissance in Khafji, at times calling in artillery "on my head" before scooting to hide somewhere else.

"There wasn't a minote I wasn't scared," Brown said moments after he escaped from the Saudi border twon in Jan. 31 during the biggest ground battle of the war with Iraq. "It was difficult, but we had to put that aside and do the job."

On another reconnaissance team in Khafji was Corporal Shuck Ingraham of New Orleans. who said the marines "we shaking for two days from cold and fear. ... I'd be lying if I (said) that

dying hadn't crossed my mind." Brown and Ingraham were far from alone in being forced to confront fear. As thousands of troops fight for the first time and thousands

more prepare for war, anxiety

takes many shapes, from the widespread fear of dying to nagging doubts about letting their buddies down in combat. Others worry they will never again see parents, wives and children. Still others fear they will return home unappreciated, like after Vietnam. The threats of

being maimed also incite con-Many young Americans fightmg the war try to mask their fear. Combat Veterans take another

"terrorism." chemical warfare or

"You're supposed to be scared to death," said Capt. Brent Smith, 33, of Maine. Smith is a veteran of the marine deployment in Lebanon, where 241 U.S. servicemen were killed in a 1983

Media,

military

access

DHAHRAN (AP) — The media

and the military, never the best of

friends, are engaged in an escalat-

ing battle over the journalists'

right to cover the war and the

military's concerns over security.

dozen reporters and photo-

graphers have been detained by

military personnel after trying to

gather stories outside the official

press pools, groups of reporters

travelling under military escort. Veteran journalists who have

covered wars in Vietnam and

other nations over the past two

decades say the actions of the U.S. military are among the most restrictive they've experienced.

In one case, an Associated

Press writer and photographer were held six hours by a U.S.

army unit. They were given din-ner, shown air strikes and pro-

vided with glimpses of camp life

In another, Wesley Bocxe, a

photographer on assignment for

Time Magazine, was held for 30 hours by a U.S. National Guard

unit, at times blindfolded and

On Sunday, New York Times

reporter Chris Hedges was de-

tained by U.S. military police for

six hours and his credentials were

temporarily lifted after he tried to

ask officials at a military hospital

for permission to conduct an in-

"I was told I violated the agree-

ment (the military ground rules)

by coming into a front line area

unescorted," said Hedges, "It's

true I talked to soldiers. But I was

in a civilian area doing a story

His credentials --- issued by

Saudi Arabia - were returned the

CBS newsman Bob Simon and

three crew members disappeared

two weeks ago while travelling unescorted near the Kuwaiti bor-

der. They have not been seen

With nearly 800 journalists

yying for a mere 126 spots on the

various press pools, many repor-

ters and photographers have

struck off on their own to find

something to photograph or write

The alternative is to rely on

The military contends that

according to ground rules set by

U.S. authorities, reporters and

photographers cannot inerview

military personnel unleas

escorted by a public affairs offic-

ports written by the pools.

about the local economy."

that generated a story.

interrogated.

terview.

next day.

about.

In the past two weeks at least a

battle

over

Among the more than 500,000 U.S. troops in the region, there are perhaps as many ways of dealing with fear as there are

Many carry Bibles. Others sit with friends and commanders, or perhaps a chaplain, discussing

"If you are not a little afraid, you could do something stupid," said Army Staff SGT. Thomas Gray, 27, of Nebraska, a squad leader in an infantry platoon who urges his men to discuss their fear.

Some are told to keep their fear to themselves to keep from frightening others.

"It is considered common courtesy not to talk about how scared you are," said Pvt. Thomas Schneider, 24, of Missouri, 2 member of the first Infantry Division. "If one guy gets depressed about it, the next guy catches it

"I'd be lying of I said I'm not scared to death," Marine Capt. Kevin Monahan, 26, of San Francisco, said during a brief retreat the battle of Khafji. "We have no idea where the Iracis are. But we're going back. We've still got guys in there who are counting ou

on the basis of democratie values

but on the basis of economic

the oil-producing countries of the

region has brought cheap oil,

lucrative arms selling and a super-

perhaps the only countries in the

world which pay for imperialism

- they pay to be occupied."
Rubeiz said Israel had a right-

ful place in the Middle East. but

criticised the Jewish state over

the region and this is important, it

must be a part of the region," he

"But Israel seeks security

The World Council of Chur-

ches which represents 316 chur-

ches meets every seven years to

formulate religious policy. The

assembly runs until Feb. 20.

"Israel has decided to return to.

the Palestinian question.

"The Arab oil countries are

power client state system.

The symbiosis of the West and

exploitation," he said.

Lebanese religious leader blames Arab apathy for war some countries in the region not

CANBERRA (R) - A senior Lebanese executive of the World Council of Churches said Tuesday that political apathy among Arabs was one of the reasons for the Gulf war.

"The Arabs must bear part of the responsibility of this crisis," Ghassan Rubeiz, secretary of the council's Middle East section, told its seventh assembly. "It is my view that Arab regim-

es get away with a lot of deviance and their people, my people, remain too tolerant and quiet about their oppressive predica-"Resources are mismanaged,

human rights are violated, borders are trainpled upon, wars are easily started, authority tends to amount to force." Mr. Rubeiz said if Arabs were

have prevented not only the current Gulf war, but the earlier conflict between Iraq and Iran. He eritieised Arab oilproducing countries for their rela-

tionship with the West, particularly the United States.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Levy indicated Israel

woold again raise a 1989 plan calling for direct negotiations

with Arab countries and limited

autonomy or self-rule for 1.7

million Palestinians in the occu-

pied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

ground because of Israel's refusal

ro discuss it with the PLO. The

PLO also dismissed the idea as

falling short of its aspirations for

Israeli leaders helieve the

PLO's support for Iraq bas

eroded its standing and could

opeo the door for a compromise

on Palestinian representation at

stood to the right of Saddam

Hussein... it has removed itself

from the process," Mr. Levy said.

a political springboard," be added.

the reported moves concerning

Svria. But Israel Radio said he

told parliament's defeoce and

foreign affairs committee Mon-

day that Israel was open to the

idea of peace talks with Syria.

"We need to seize this hour as

Mr. Levy made no mention of

"Today after the PLO has

independent statehood.

peace talks.

The plan never got off the

through the acquisition of force and land and money. It does not more politically active they could invest enough in building nership with the Palestinian peo-

The West has befriended

(Continued from page 1) out the United States using nuclea weapons and said Baghdad would

Western intelligence agencies say lraq is at least months away from being able to produce a nuclear

nd to any weapon used against it

"We do not rule out that the United States and its allies consider the use of the nuclear weapon to avoid human and material losses... we will meet any weapon with its

U.S. military spokesm that commanders would not rush into a ground or sea offensive until bomb-ing had done maximum harm to the estimated 545,000 Iraqi troops in and around Kuwait.

Allied pilots said there were still hundreds of military targets to hit, although one said Kuwait looked "like a junkyard with large areas of

Mr. Bush refused to discuss whether there would be a ground offensive or when it might start. He would not even use the term "ground campaign," declaring: "We're italking about dates for further adding to the air campaign ---- put it After a council of war with Defence

Bush

Secretary Dick Chency and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chicle of Staff, who discussed tactics with allied comm bia. Mr. Bush said: The air campaign has been very, very effective and it will continue for

But military analysts said another long wait might blunt the fighting edge of allied troops who have spent up to six months in Sandi Arabia

preparing for war. The start of the desert dust storm scason was barely a month away and owing international alarm over the ensity of the blitz of Iraq could also force a decision on a ground cam-

"We're going to take whatever time is necessary to sort out when a next stage might begin."

The sorting-out included meetings Tuesday with the defence ministers of Britain and France, his main Western partners in the 28-nation anti-Iran

Mr. Bush said he would listen to his military advisers and others before deciding whether to order a ground

"If they come to me and say th needs to be another phase, then I will then make that decision because that is a decision for the president of the

Driver recounts horror on Baghdad-Amman road the crater," Naaman recalls. By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Bagbdad-Amman road seems to have be-come a road where history or legends are born nowadays. Refugees and truck drivers tell stories of machine-gun fire aimed at them from low flying planes, with Saudi flags on them. And now one truck driver speaks of seeing seven American soldiers holding up a car full of Jordanian women to "take their car."

Subhi Naaman, a Jordanian taxi driver who drove from Baghdad to Amman about 12 days ago 'says he witnessed "robbery" of a car belonging to a Jordanian family fleeing Kuwait by what looked like American soldiers. As he passed the "hold up" on

the main Baghdad-Amman road at 8:00 p.m., 35 kilometres from Al Rutbah, the soldiers saw him and opened fire, wounding him in the right arm and forcing his car off the road.

"When they saw me they opened fire. "My nephew who was sitting next to me ducked and I drove on." Naaman remem-

bers. "I didn't feel anything at first, all I wanted was for us to get through... then after we drove through the soldiers chain on the street I noticed planes overhead. the street right in front of us was hit and 'boom' our car drove into

Naaman's car-riddled with bullets and now in the crater --- saw little else till a convoy of Jordanians fleeing Baghdad found him near the road.

Among the refugees were the family that had been robbed of their car, they had come with relatives who had been driving behind them. According to Naaman the family said that the soldiers were Americans and wanted their car to return to Saudi Arabia. The Jordanian family were told not to speak about the incident. Arriving at the Al Rutbah hospital about 100 kilometres from the Jordanian border, Naaman and the affected Jordanians told Iraqi officials of the incident with the American

soldiers. "They took the information and went off," Naaman says of the Iraqi reaction. The hospital at Al Rutbah was full of people who had been injured by the allied bombing of the Baghdad-Amman

"There were many Jorda-

nians," Naaman said.
The family who was the victim and first band eyewitness to the hold-up are in Irbid according to Naaman. As for his future, Naaman is waiting for his arm to heal at the University Hospital so he can continue his work along the Amman-Baghdad road.

MIDDLE NEWS IN BRIEF

Earth tremor shakes istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) --- A moderate earthquake shook buildings, rattled windows and knocked out telephone lines in Istanbul Tuesday, causing panic among some of the Turkish city's eight million residents. The quake struck at 11.58 a.m. (0958 GMT) and registered 4.8 on the open-ended Richter scale, an official at the geological centre at Bosphorus University said. She said the tremor was centred in the sea of Marmara south of Istanbul. There were reports of: casualties or major damage, "It was like a strong kick and we got panicky," said one Istanbul woman. The Anatolian news agency said the tremor lasted about six seconds and sent some residents fleeing their homes in panic. It was also felt in surrounding towns and villages. As many as 20 minor earth tremors shake Istanbul each day. but the city has not been hit directly by a major quake in modern times. Three major faultlines run through Turkey, which has been hit by 53 major quakes this century.

New group of refugees flee to Iran

NICOSIA (R) - A new batch of 370 refugees escaping allied airraids on Iraq crossed into Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday. The new arrivals from Sudan, Yemen and Victnam Were given temporary shelter at the western border crossing of Khosravi. Iran has reported receiving 4,110 expatriate refugees and 105 Irans since the Gulf war began on Jan. 17.

israeli soldiers train in Germany

BONN (AP) - More than 30 Israeli soldiers began a special training programme Monday to learn how to combat chemical weaponry, officials said. The Defence Ministry, in a statement, said 32 Israeli soldiers would train from Tuesday until March 8 at the German military chemical weapons training facility in Sonthofen, in southern Germany near the Austrian border. The government on Jan. 30 agreed to send Israel eight annoured fox vehicles designed to detect chemical weapons. They were part of an estimated one-billion-mark (\$689 million) supply and material package which Germany has promised to Israel. In addition, the government has given Israel 250 million marks (\$172 million) in humanitarian aid. And on Monday, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation gave the Israeli ambassador to Bonn a check for five million marks (\$3.1 million) to help Tel Aviv and nearby neighbourhood rebuild from Iraqi missile attacks.

Britain has asked Beigium for help

BRUSSELS (R) - Britain has asked Belgium for cash and equipment to support its forces in the Gulf, a Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday. But the spokesman declined to comment in a report in Belgium's Belang van Limburg newspaper which put the value of the request at 1.2 billion francs (\$20 million). "It was a request for financial assistance which has been partially converted into a list of concrete needs," the spokesman said. Britain asked for the support early last week, he said, adding that no decision had yet been made. Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said in an interview published last Friday Belgium was wrong to refuse an earlier British request for ammunition for its Gulf troops. Belgium has contributed two minehunters and a frigate to the naval force monitoring a U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq.

'Russian heard on iragi military airwayes'

PARIS (R) --- A French newspaper said Tuesday Gulf war allies had monitored Russian being spoken on Iraqi military airwaves during the last 48 hours. Liberation said in an article from Riyadh the report had been confirmed by Saudi diplomats and several senior officers from different armed forces in the international coalition. The French daily said the information heard was classified as secret, but it was of a military nature and conversations monitored were apparently, between senior military officials. "The sources doubt that it could be Russian-speaking Iraqis. In this case it involves Soviets, present in the midst of Iraqi armed forces and speaking to each other," Liberation's reporter Francois Came said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES CHURCHES

mbiles of God Church, Tel. 632785 St. Jeseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assunctation Tel. De la Saite Church Tcl. 661757 ta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Assumciation Tel. Auglicus Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Catholic Church Tel.

mint Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. im Church Tel. 77175t. rantional Church Tel. A------685326. 8t 1295 The Church of Jame Christ of Latter Day Soluts Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER etin supplied by the Department of it will be partly cloudy and another se in temperatures will take place.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings:

NIGHT DUTY Dr. Admen Al Zngh Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301 Dr. Ahmad Al Dagen 676473 Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala . 696048 Piras Phrmacy Ferdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy 661912 778336 637055

Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 35 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

- Ahn Baker .. Al Sharaz' pharmacy (275825) Dr. Rabah Al Borini ENERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ...

.... 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade. Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police Traffic Police ... Public Security Departm Hotel Complaints ... 605300 Water and Sewerage Complaints..... Amenas Municipality 787111 rectory senist Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

Contral Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101 Abduli Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television Radio Jordan Water Authority . 773111 Iordan Flectric Electric Power 06-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airmort. 08-53200 HOSPITALS

AMMAN: cin Medical Centre 813813/32 Akileh Materaity, J. Ama.... 64281/6 Akileh Materaity, J. Ama.... 642441/2 Jabal Annusa Materaity 642362

... 845845 667227/9 666127/37 777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 891611/75 na Alia Hombisi . 674155 ZAROA: (09)983323 nel Hospital Marrow (large) Marrow (sassii) Princes Bassas Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Iba Al Naface Hospital (02)275555

сея Науа Hospital (03)314111 MARKET PRICES

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520 / 450 100 / 50

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200 / 150

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270 / 220-

horror ranian parliamentary man reeam arrives today

MMAN (J.T.) — An Iranian riamentary delegation is due re from Syria Wednesday for ks with Jordanian parliamentains over the situation in the alf. The delegation is carrying a essage from the speaker of an's parliament to Dr. Abdul atif Arabiyat, Speaker of the , ower House of Parliament, and ill meet with Jordanian memas of parliament, according to a port by the Jordan news agen-

J, Petra.
The visit comes in the wake of visit to Tehran last week by a roup representing the Muslim notherhood in Jordan including arliament members.

The arrival of the Iranian paramentarians coincides with the onvening here of a session by the ower House under the chairnanship of Dr. Arabiyat followng the last session on Sunday Juring which the situations in the Julf and the occupied Arab terripries were discussed. Arabiyat ent cahles on the situation in the sraeli-held Arah lands to the United Nations Secretary Gener-1 Javier Perez de Cuellar, the

General Javier Perez de Cnellar, the U.N. General

Assembly President, Chairman of the U.N. Security Council, Chairman of the U.N. Human Rights Committee and Director General of the United Nations Educationai, Scientific and Cultural Orga-misation (UNESCO), expressing concern over the blanket curfew imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities on the Palestinian

In his cable, Arabiyat said the Israeli-imposed eurfew on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip constitutes a flagrant violation of Human Rights and the United Nations charter and other international laws, as well as the Geneva IV Convention on the protection of

civilians under occupation.

The House condemned the arrest of Palestinian figures and intellectuals, describing it as violating the simplest principles of justice. Arabiyat warned of the grave consequences of the blanket curfew on all West Bankers.



Works Agency (UNRWA) to protest the aggression waged by the U.S. and the affied forces on Iraq. The de mian, Iraqi and Palestinian flags and replicas of Al Hu missiles marched from the Professional Unions Association to UNRWA regional office in Amman. At the end of the march, they sent a memo to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar asking him to intervene and stop the tragele war

Saudi Arabia relaxes

entry restrictions to

Officials congratulate King

AMMAN (Petra) — Senior Jordanian officials and repre-sentatives of official and public institutions Monday sent cables of congratulation of His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Miraj anniversary.

They expressed in their cahles their appreciation and admiration of King Hussein's national role at the current stage and affirmed their full support for his policy.

The cables were sent to His Majesty by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, Ahmad Al Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower Houses of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Fathi Abu Taleb, the chief judge, the mayor of Amman as well as directors of the public security, civil defence and general intelligence departments.



Thousands of Karakis voice support for King, air anger at U.S.

KARAK (J.T.) — Thousands of Jordanians in the southern region of Karak marched Tuesday in protest against the allied aggression on Iraq and condemning U.S. policies in the Middle East

The march, staged after the Al Israa Wal Miraj religious ceremonies, extended for about six kilometres with protesters carrying posters supporting the Iraqi people, portraits of His Majesty King Hussein, Palestine President Yasser Arafat and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as well as Jordanian, Iraqi and Palestinian flags.

Eyewitnesses said that the marchers burned an effigy of U.S. President Bush and shouted slogans against the United States and its allies in the Gulf war. The march was staged from

Muta to Al Mazar, two towns with sites of mosques commemorting Muslim leaders who died in 7th century A.D. battles between the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Nation.

According to eyewitnesses no less than 15,000 people took part in the demonstration, and later attended a public rally where they issued a political statement voicing absolute backing for King Hussein's policies. The statement said that the allied forces came to the region not for the purpose of the so-called liberation of

Kuwait, but rather to lay their hands on Arab oil and to destroy the Iraqi military might and to protect Israel and its ambitious designs in the Arab World.

Several speakers addressed the rally expressing the Karak people's support for King Hussein and voicing their response to his call to rally for the defence of the

The marchers sent a cable to the U.N. Secretary General, denouncing the allied forces attack on Iraq as a brutal crime and accusing the U.N. organisation of being a tool in the hands of the United States and serving the colonial power's ambitions and

Uncertain future awaits evacuees

N BRIEF Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AZRAQ — An hour's drive way from Amman, between the and dunes and the sun, 646 fefugees from Iraq have found a makeshift homewhich will protect them from the cold nights and - allied bombing

- - - The makeshift homes are tents donated by one of several dozen relief organisations which have Till I rushed to the aid of refugees: * ↑ ★ fleeing war-torn Iraq and Kuwait. The washing facilities are out-

- doors and food is rationed, but most refugees stay for only a few ights making the stay bearable. · E For some of the refugees however, the stay seems to be a long one. Somalis and Iranians, many of Kurdish origin, are here along with Indians, Yemenis and

which compared to the fate of the first of the fate of the fact of the first of the first of the fact of the fact of the fact of the Kurdish Communist Puty, the for go back to their country the Kor. ala, and I ran feet the fact of the Kurdish Communist Puty, the Kor. ala, and I ran feet the fact of the Kurdish Communist Puty, the Kor. ala, and I ran feet the fact of the Kurdish Communist Puty, the Kor. ala, and I ran feet the fact of the Kurdish Communist Puty, the Kor. ala, and I ran feet the fact of the fact of the fact of the Kurdish Communist Puty, the Kor. ala, and I ran feet the fact of the fa not go back to their country because a vicious war is being waged there. The 160 Somalis at

.

Azraq belong to the same tribe in northern Somalia. "We are from the Shamalia," said 15 year-c's Suad. Shamalia means No th, and Suad, like many of the children of the Somali migrant workcas, was born in Kuwait. "I have been in Kuwait for

twelve years," says Abu Mohammad, "I worked as a school-bus driver at the Farasheh School and supported my family," he says. Abu Mohammad has his mother, - " wife and five children with him in he camp.

The children are bored and Faisal, 12, who speaks perfect English says he misses school. I miss doing something and "I miss doing something and as that we can start school

gain," Faisal says.
But returning to Somalia may omalis think. They say that the hited Nations has promised to omalia ends. But all agree that It now, there seems to be no end

Abu Mohammad says he tried take his family to Syria, but at the Syrians would not let him at the border. "We tried to go Damascus two months ago but

we came back here to wait what will happen... soon the winter will be over and the weather will

Down three rows of tents from the now veteran Somali refugees, are the Iranians.

Over 60 Iranians, of Kurdish, Turkish and Persian origins, who came to Jordan between Jan. 22

They are in fact, two-time refagees. Most of the sixty or so people fled political and ethnic persecution in Iran to take refuge in Iraq in the mid 1980's. Now,

not being able to return to Iran because they feel they may be "killed" there, they have sought refuse in Jordan. Belonging to mostly leftist opposition groups in Iran, the refugees say that Iraq gave them

hit Iraq I ran for my life again," says Yousef from the northern

Iranian province of Kurdistan. Yousef says he never felt persecuted in Iraq as a Kurd or as a Communist. "But I do have a problem now, I have no passport," he says. "I left Iran on foot and I left Iraq on foot to come to Jordan," Yousef says laughing. "When I left Iran I had no documents and now I have no documents, the UNHCR is helping us find countries to seek asylum in like Sweden, Canada or

Germany. Yoursef says 50,000 Iranians still live in Iraq having been given political asylum there and they will not be able to return to Iran, he says. "There are 50,000 Iranians in Anbar, some are political refugees and others just fled the war in Iran, but many will not be able to return to Iran under the present government for fear of persecution," says Yossef.

The sixty Iranians like the 160 Somalis wait in the cold of the Azzaq night and as they watched the 106 Indians and 93 Sudanèse drive off today in buses which will take them to chartered planes bound for "home", they wondered when, and if, their turn will ever come to catch a flight to a secure, safe, freedom.

Jordan Communist Party lauds King's national stand

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Communist Party (JCP) Tuesday denounced "the devastating war against Iraqi people," hailed His Majesty King sein's address to the Nation Feb. 6 and urged the formation of a National Unity government.
"The domestic Arab and inter-

national campaign to stop the war must be widened," the JCP Central Committee said in a statement. Once war is stopped, and 29 from Iraq are now in "Arab and international negotiations must start to solve all the region's problems, whether in the

Gulf or Palestine," it said, The JCP Central Committee said it agreed with King Hussein's assessment of the aims of the war

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sandi Arabia has

lifted a ban on some Arab expatri-

ates, including Jordanians and

Palestinians, working in the king-

dom from returning there after

vacation or trips abroad, in-

formed airlines sources said Tues-

The sources said they were

informed by their contacts in the

Gulf states that the Sandi civil

aviation authorities had informed

all airlines that they could fly

Jordanian, Palestinian, Yemeni

and Sudanese expatriates to

Saudi Arabia as long as the pas-

sengers had valid return entry

An earlier circular had m-

structed the airlines that none of

these nationals as well as Iragis

would be allowed into Saudi Ara-

hia and that the carriers were

responsible: for their immediate

Iraqis are not included in the

reverse decision. All Iragis need

to get a prior clearance from the

Saudi interior ministry for their

Dr. Samir Mntawa, public rela-

tions officer of Royal Jordanian

(RJ), said be had not received

any formal intimation of the

Sandi move, but pointd ont that

Tuesday was a public holiday.

return to the kingdom.

departure from the kingdom.

and his perception of a new order in the region.

The JCP said it agreed with the King that "the real aim of the war is to establish a new regional order, based on the destruction of Iraq and rearranging the region's affairs in a way that puts the Arab countries and their resources under direct foreign hegemony."

It said it welcomed the King's

call for an "order that ensures the right of all peoples for freedom and progress. The JCP said the King's important national address expressed the views of all Jordanians, with all their political trends, in fend-

ing off all the dangers that threaten the Arabs." "The concept of forming an

dated Feb. 11.

The han did not apply to those

carrying dual nationalities, parti-

cularly American passport bol-

ders, since their work and resi-

dence permits were issued on the

basis of their American docu-

A ban on Jordanian truckers

who carry produce and other

goods into Saudi Arabia from

Jordan remained in place, trans-

port industry sources said. This

ban went into effect late Septem-

ber but exceptions were made

when the Jordanian government

had moved in protest and im-

posed a ban on all trucks from

entering Saudi Arabia through

Jordanian territory. This resulted

in an outcry in the Gulf states,

traditional consumers of fruit and

vegetables from Jordan, the occu-

pied territories, Syria and Tur-

Subsequently, the Saudis

allowed Jordanian truckers to

pass through their territory but

imposed a ban on all imports

from Jordan and the occupied

nian trucks was imposed last

However, the ban on all Jorda-

About 140,000 Jordanians used

to work in Saudi Arabia before

the Gulf crisis erupted in August.

territories.

month.

all-encompassing national unity government has become a necessity," the Communists said in their statement. They said a National Unity government would enable Jordan to effectively face the challenges of the war

The Party also denounced Israeli arbitrary measures against Palestinians under occupation. It called on all the forces of peace and freedom to exert their efforts to end the Israeli curfew imposed on the Palestinians since the start of the Gulf war, Jan. 17.

The party also called for the enhancement of all Arab and world efforts to end the Gulf war and reach for a peaceful settle-

Resident of Abu Nseir heat up 'cold dialogue' for boiler system

... By Nur Sati Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Imagine waking up first thing in the morning only to find a rush of cold water cascading from the hot water tap. The people of Abu Nseir, a suburb north of Amman, have been waking up to this for the past three years. Now the 3,000 villagers are trying to come to an agreement with the Housing Corporation

about a suitable boiler system. But many in the town have just about given up, saying that their pleas with the Housing Corporation have fallen on deaf

cars. The main problem affecting the heating systems is financial, according to a woman. 36, with six children. "Every group of sixty huildings has one boiler. Sharing the boiler is not a problem but when someone uses it for 20 bours and another person uses the boiler for eight hours and still both are paying the same amount for the beating, then that is a problem," the woman said.

What if a meter could be installed and everyone would pay according to the heating they use? The woman answered, "it is not so simple. When you bave a group of 60 houses sharing one boiler, that means that half the

bouses will not get hot water because the houses are built very far a way from one another."

Nashat Asfour, a resident, said most of the meters do not function. "The Corporation told us that the best way to pay for the beating was in accordance with the size of the bouses, so a smaller apartment would pay less than I do even if they keep the boiler running for a longer time." Another housewife who did

not wish to be named said, "to buy our own hoiler costs us JD 40 a month. Most of us here have an average of five children with a salary of JD150 per month.".

According to Ajwad Bataynch, an architect living in Ahu Nseir. the problem of the boiler system originates from the engineers of the whole complex at the village. He maintained that "the first mistake was that the Corporation built the suburb specifically for the middle class." What happened, be added, was that all brackets of society hegan residing in the town, which means that we had different people who had different ideas about heating systems."

Batayneh asked why should some people have to pay between JD 20-30 or even JD 40 a month for a boiler when they can pay JD 2-3 a month for kerosene heaters? "When some people refused to pay for the boilers the Coris poration closed off the beating." He explained that to have the boiler working, the Corporation

asked for 70 per cent of the group of 60 huildings to participate. When the apartments were built in 1986, economie problems were just beginning in the country. The standard of living shot np. "The people of Abu Nseir thought that by residing in that

suburb, they would save a lot of money. But now I am paying more that 30 per cent of my income as monthly installments for the apartment while it should not be more than 20 per cent in normal economic conditions.

> Batayneh told the Jordan Times. "The boiler system was made in an equally ill-planned fashion," said a resident of Abu Nseir. Asfour added that "the Housing Corporation didn't want to operate the boiler them-

> Although the Corporation promised to fix the meters, according to Batayneh, "they failed to do so." But the director of the Housing Corporation, Khaled Mattar, said that, "we could not do anything about it. We told the people to pay and they refused. A group of houses could share and make a deal but it did not work."

> Now Ahu Nseir has formed committees of the residents so that issue can be solved. Though this was seen as a haven on the part of the residents, the committees had to overcome certain problems.

A resident who preferred

anonymity explained that, "when the committees where formed, we asked the Housing Corporation to hand in the boilers to us, but special conditions were asked from us." The committee member told the Jordan Times that the Housing Corporation wanted the committee to pay an electricity fee of JD 150 as well as paying all other electricity bills. Another

request was to pay for the fuel oil

in the boilers. Meanwhile, the committee found out that since the meter was not functioning, "estimates for the price of fuel oil were based on paying for the two tonnes of fuel, known as dead energy," the committee member said. "This is unusable because it stavs at the bottom of the boiler." According to committee members, all the fuel oil paid for by the subscribers and the committee members previously. Now the Corporation is

asking for additional pay. The Housing Corporation, however, declined to answer. But a resident commented that "the Corporation collected ·money· in excess of 30 per cent in this way. He added that "this meant that subscribers were paying an extra cost.

The battle continues. As the summer season is closer, the residents have something to look forward to. But the committee members are trying to solve the issue for the coming winter. "If each boiler was shared by three or four buildings, I think it would solve a lot of problems," Batayneh said. "The owners could work it out between them-

J.S. society asks Jordan to help each prisoners of war in Iraq

MAN (J.T.) — The Jordan ional Red Crescent Society RCS) has been approached he American Red Cross Socito help the International mittee of the Red Cross (C) to reach American priss of war in Iraq. It said it was

ing to oblige. ≠ammad Mitlaq Al Hadid, in a statement Tuesday that ad received a message from beth Dole, President of the Red Cross Society in this d notifying him that the cty was delegating Mr. . in Richards Doie's executive y to Amman for talks with S officials on the matter s b further steps can be made. de hopes that the JNRCS ontact the Iraqi Red Cres-Society to arrange for a ng of the two sides to pave of my for the ICRC visit to the ers of war, mostly airmen

whose warplanes were shot down by Iraqi air defences, said Hadid.

The Iraqi and the U.S. sides gave conflicting reports about the number of downed American planes and the captured or killed airmen, but the United States said Tuesday that 58 of the allied forces including Americans were captured or missing in ground battles. It also admitted the loss of 23 of its airmen while taking part in bombing raids against Iraqi targets.
Dr. Hadid expressed hope that

the two parties will respect the Geneva Conventions specially the Fourth Convention which provides for the protection of civilians during wartime so that the JNRCS can exert efforts to help the ICRC reach the prisoners of war on both side

Hadid expressed JNRCS's readiness to contact Dr. Ibrahim Al Nouri, head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, to pave the way for a dialogue that would open the way for the ICRC to visit the American prisoners of war.

The JNRCS had earlier arranged for various Red Cross societies to contact their nationals in Iraq when they were held by the Iraqi authorities prior to the outbreak of the war, and also arranged for essential supplies and medicines to them through the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Hadid said that these arrangements were conducted through the JNRCS between Nov. 3 and 23, 1990.

For its part, JNRCS has hen raising contributions in Jordan for the benefit of the displaced Iragi civilians on those affected by the war in Iraq.

Dr. Hadid announced that two groups of JNRCS volunteers Tuesday headed for Iraq to work at the Ramadi Hospital. The first. group, led by Dr. Nabih Moam-.

mar, will bold talks with the Iraci Red Crescent Society about its needs of medicine, medical equipment and children's food and will hand the Iraqi Society the third consignment of in-kind assistance contributed by the Jordanian people to the Iraqi people. The consignment comprises

medicines and medical equipment. Hadid said. The second group which | comprises: doctors. nurses and surgeons who will work for some time in Iraqi hospitals and are taking three amhulances to help them with their Dr. Hadid said that the second

group is heading straight to the Ramadi Hospital to deliver a sbipment of medical requirements and to evacuate Jordanians and carry them back to Amman. The Jordanians were injured during affied bombing raids on the Amman-Baghdad road.

Gambler, turned murderer, to hang

AMMAN (J.T.) - A 30-year-old Jordanian named Talaat Mohammad Qasem from Al Wihdat camp has been sentenced to death by hanging for assassinating his uncle's wife, Sahirah Saleh, whilst stealing jewellery to squander the proceeds on gamb-

According to a statement by the Criminal Court, which passed the sentence, the murderer had been in the habit of gambling at one of Amman's cafes and borrowing more and more from one of his acquaintances. At one point he had to steal

some of the victim's jewellery to pay for his losses at the gambling table; but when the dehts accumulated to reach ID 1000 decided to steal all the jewellery and his grandfather's money which he knew was at his uncle's

Talaat knew that one day his

uncle and grandfather were going to be absent from home at hospital for a medical checkup, and he planned to steal the money on that day, said the statement. Qasem sneaked into the house but was confronted with his uncle's wife who began to scream which prompted him to attack her with a metal pipe and a knife to get rid of her before making off with the money and the jewel-

According to the statement, however, the man to whom Talast was indebted and who learnt about the murder soon after it was committed, reported the matter to the police who arrested the crimina

The court statement said that the crime was committed last March, and the trial took almost 11 months before the senten was passed. No date has yet been fixed for the execution.

Tel: 667171

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Gulf Peace Team appeals for urgent humanitarian relief to the civilian victims of war

The Gulf Peace Team (from the peace camp et Arer on the Iraqi-Saudi border) is hiring trucks for the urgent transport of medical supplies intended for the civilian victims of wer in the region of Iraq and Kuwait. We plan to deliver these supplies to Baghdad within the next few days, in collaboration with the Red Crescent.

Starting at 12:00 today (Wednesday, 13 February), the trucks will be located opposite the Manar Hotel in Al-Shmeisanl, ready for loading. Please bring your donations of non-perishable medical supplies to the site before Thursdey, 14 February at 6:00 p.m.

The Gulf Peace Team is an international, Independent, non-partisan group of individuals working for peace in the Middle East through non-violent means.

For further information, please contact the Gulf Peace Team at 665410/1 or at the Ammon Hotel (671133/4/5, Room 209).

Jordan Times

يهن تأوز يومية عربية سيلسية مستكلة تصدر بالانطبزية عن الؤسسة المسطنة الاريتية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Between justice, crime

FORMER U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is an extraordinary voice for reason and justice and his judgements cannot be taken lightly. Having already distinguished himself as a man of the highest moral and intellectual calibre possible, Clark'a assessment that his country is committing war crimes in Iraq must not be brushed aside but rather should give food for thought for all concerned. What Mr. Clark seems to be worried about most is the carpet U.S. aerial bombardment of Iraqi civilian targets that already caused extensive casualties and damage in contravention of the international humanitarian law as expressed in the Hague and Geneva conventions. According to reports, no less than six to seven thousand Iraqi civilians having lost their lives and probably double that number of civilians having lost their homes and means of livelihood, because of the savage bombardment of Iraq in the past four weeks. Since U.S. President George Bush was among the first to raise the subject of war crimes and was the first to level accusations against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as having committed war crimes, he is invited to listen carefully to what Mr. Clark has been saying about the continuing atrocities being committed by the U.S. war machine in the Gulf theatre. The least that one would expect from Mr. Bush is to open wide the war file and address the issue from all its angles and dimensions. The subject of war crimes is indeed a very relevant issue to the Gulf war and deserves a thorough debate with optimum fairness and balance. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is well placed to investigate this matter in the field since it is the body entrusted with the task of observing the implementation of the Hague and the four Geneva conven-

As Iraq and the U.S. are levelling accusations against each other as having committed war crimes, now is the time to invite the ICRC to investigate these allegations and to report back to the international community on its findings. There is an ICRC presence in Iraq and Saudi Arabia which can be extended to reach the other parts touched by the Gulf war, this could be the most effective way to keep a watchful eye on how the war in the Gulf region is being conducted and to gauge the extend of the adherence of the parties to the conflict to the spirit and letter of the relevant conventions. It is timely and fitting to remind the belligerents in the Gulf war that all mass destruction weapons including nuclear weapons are prohibited under Protocol 1 of the Geneva conventions even though the U.S. has yet to ratify that protocol. Having been ratified by the majority of the nations of the world, the principles of Protocol 1 have become an integral part of the international customary law. The U.S. will be better advised if it beeds the call of this internationally recognised norms and give them priority over its military objectives.

Otherwise it would commit the gravest of all war crimes that humanity has seen so far.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Egypt has decided to send two more divisions of its best troops to the Arabian Peninsula to fight Iraq raising the number of Egyptian soldiers to nearly 70,000, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The increase in the number of troops, the paper said, came in response to a call by the British foreign secretary during his recent visit to Cairo, and was a manifestation of Egypt's further hostile attitude towards the Arab Natio in general and Iraq in particular, said the paper. As the Egyptian troops are being sent to fight Iraq, Egyptian jails are being stuffed with thousands of Egyptian people opposing the Cairo regime and its hostile attitude towards the Arab people of Iraq, and standing against the conspiracy in which Hosni Mubarak is an active partner in service of world Zionism, the paper noted. What Egypt is doing now is an attempt to carry out the second phase of the Camp David accords signed by Anwar Sadat and approved by his successor to enable world Zionism to spread its hegemony on the Arab World, the paper continued. Britain, the United States, and Israel are now arriving to push the Egyptian forces in the Arabian Peninsula to the forefront to serve as sandbags protecting the British and U.S. soldiers from Iraq's attacks and causing Arabs to be killed by Arab hands and causing a double tratedy for the Arab Nation, the paper noted. The paper said that the good and honest people of Egypt can by no me allow the Cairo regime to pursue its present policies against the Arab Nation, and are bound sooner or later to put an end to such

Many voices were stifled during the ongoing Gulf war so as to facilitate the aggression and to cover up for the moves of the criminals now waging aggression on Iraq, says Mahmond Al Rimawi in Al Ra'l daily Tuesday. Not only did the U.S.-Zionist political and military machinery succeed in silencing the media forcing it to propagate only official statements to the public, but it also had its way in stifling the United Nations Organisation where no voice was raised demanding a halt to the raids on the civilian population of Iraq, the columnist notes. Rimawi draws attention to the fact that Arab regimes influenced by the U.S.-Zionist alliance have closed universities, imprisoned intellectuals and writers and exercised a repressive rule over their masses lest voices can be raised against the criminal war on Iraq. Even the Arab League which was moved to Cairo and the Organisation of Islamic Conference which used to support just causes are kept away from the scene, and are prevented from interfering in the issue lest they can impose a peaceful solution to the crisis, the writer maintains. If the U.S.-Zionist alliance is right in the war on Iraq, and if it is the Security Council resolutions that are being implemented, then why should they fear anything? Rimawi asks. But, says Rimawi, it seems that the U.S.-Zionist alliance is afraid of the fact that its war ou Iraq is designed to protect the backward regimes and the dictators who are maintaining repressive rules in their countries to serve their Zionist masters.

Altering the landscape of Arab history

By Lindsey Tanner The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Allied bombing of Iraq is endangering one of the world's richest archaeological regions and treasures from the earliest civilisations, archaeologists and historians say.

"It's one of the more unfortunate places in the world where this could happen." said Mike Shoemaker, assistant editor of Washington-based publication.

Baghdad, among the heaviest hit areas, is at the eastern edge of ancient Mesopotamia, a region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers that was settled before 4000

"It's where we have the first first cities, it's where we have the first monumental architecture. All of these things are the base of all modern civilisation," said McGuire Gibson, a professor of dating to 800 A.D. "are in very Mesopotamian archaeology at the University of Chicago.

One of the most endangered sites is the Iraq National Museum McCormick Adams, secretary of in downtown Baghdad, where the Smithsonian Institution, prethousands of treasures such as dicted that no "calamitous" damclay writing tablets and jewelry are housed, Shoemaker said. •

is (that) it is located right next door to the main railroad station," Gibson said. "A television and radio station are within 150 metres of the museum."

A blast near the museum

The Defence Ministry partially surrounds the Abbasid Palace, one of Baghdad's major standing monuments. The yellow brick structure, dating to about 1200 A.D., is one of Iraq's few intact

Gibson said he has been unable to contact museum workers and friends to find out the extent of bomb damage.

"I would guess there's been Shoemaker, assistant editor of some damage because the De-Biblical Archaeology Review. a fence Ministry has been hit," he

Gibson said that in southern Iraq, an air base hammered by bombs is adjacent to the ancient city of Ur, said to have been the birthplace of the biblical patriarch Ahraham.

Another endangered site is at writing, it's where we have the Samarra, reportedly the site of a chemical weapons plant targeted by the allies about 144 kilometres north of Baghdad, Gibson said, The remains of an Islamic city

grave danger" there, he said. Before war broke out on Jan. 16, noted archaeologist Robert age would be done to ancient sites except those near modern What's most horrible about it cities and other potential targets. Gibson said the war forced bim

to cancel his annual winter research trip to Iraq. "What you're going to do is alter the landscape to a point

where ... certain types of research would likely damage its fragile that we do will not be able to be treasures. Gibson said last week. done again," he said.

Ecopolitical Forum

Using United Nations to legalise destruction

By Dr. Abdalla Maiki

THE U.N. Security Council is scheduled to meet late this night, probably behind closed doors, for deliberation on the war waged by the American-spearheaded alliance. The Americans and Britons were most reluctant to attend this meeting and long opposed its convening. That was very strange because it was the Security Council which mandated the American alliance to use necessary means to implement the council's resolutions relating to Kuwait. Mr. Bush picked up war of destruction as his favourite means. But he and his war alliance must report to the Security Council on the progress of work and how its resolutions are being implemented because the ultimate authority lies in the hands of the council. There is real danger that any party volunteering to implement the related resolution might mishandle. Thus going back to the council is necessary for the sake of respecting the council, its resolutions and the international legality in text and spirit.

The fact that Mr. Bush and company are very reluctant to go back to the council is very well understood and expected. The alliance has violated its terms of reference and went beyond the announced goal of liberating Kuwait to the genuine disguised one of destroying Iraq, in addition to inflicting heavy casualties among civilian individuals and targets. It is bard to discern how the liberation of Kuwait starts with the bombing, for example, of sewage, water and electricity networks in Baghdad and deptiving its population from all minicipal services.

Practically, Mr. Bush can order the scorching of every inch in Iraq and go as far as destroying Jordan, Iran or any other country in the vicinity, claiming that this is the way to bberate Kuwait. If he does that, nobody will be able to challenge him because there is no practical way to prove the contrary, not at least as the process of destruction is underway. The mandate given to Mr. Bush under Resolution 678 was so open, so general and deliberately loosely-worded as to lead to that. Any member state is mandated to take whatever action under whatever banner to implement that resolution in whatever way it likes, without having to go back to the council prior to that action or after it, and without being accountable for ill-execution or over-execution of that decision! Can anything be as strange, more dubious or more condemnable? Certainly, not, understandably because the United States wrote the decision which was tailored to its long-standing and well-guarded goal of destroying Iraq. It is really a sad day for the United Nations to serve as a conduit for "legalising" American designs of destruction and for furthering American domination of the world.

Mr. Bush blocked all the avenues to a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and did his utmost to ensure that President Saddam Hussein does not agree to withdraw from Kuwait (remember John E. Mack and Jeffery Z. Rubin's article in Los Angeles Times two weeks 280?) Now, be is blocking all the roads to a ceasefire. Does the American public really know what their president is actually up to? In conclusion, please read the following two paragraphs extracted from an article by Mr. James H. Webb Jr., published in

the Wall Street Journal Europe (Feb. 4, 1991). "And what of those Arab allies, on behalf of whom we may soon be spending up to a billion dollars a day, as well as the blood of our finest young men and women? When the emir of Kuwait returns with his 70 wives and fleet of personal jets, bringing behind him the legion of young men who danced out the war in the discos of Cairo and London. The world is going to take a cool look at the uncomfortable totality of Mr. Bush's 'moral principle.' One need not be a pessimist to imagine a groundswell of anger directed at the royal families of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, from within both the Arab and Western communities."

Internationally, allies and enemies alike must be wondering at the way this coalition was patched together, as well as at the principles on which the U.S. will conduct future policy. The Bush administration has dealt in extremes: payoffs to, rather than persuasion of, those who would support us; brute force rather than simple pressure against those with whom we disagree. The fallout from such an approach will become clearer when the bills come due, and when the next crisis appears."

LETTERS

Just the facts

To the Editor:

IT never crossed my mind that I would be writing a letter of this sort. Before coming back home my American friends often wondered if I was scared of living in Jordan. My reply was that Jordan has been, is, and will continue to be, a safe place.. Lately though, and thanks to George Bush, I am having second

First of all, I want to clarify that as a matter of principle I am against the acquisition of territory by force. On one hand, history has proven that most forms of occupation have been wrong and short-lived. On the other hand, Saddam Hussein has made the majority of Arabs proud, and has reminded the world of the often neglected Palestinian problem. For the past forty years, we Arabs have been mistreated, ignored, used and abused by the world's superpowers. Americans have made it quite clear that there is no room in the Middle East for a strong leader who would, God forbid, unite the Arabs! They want to control oil resources in the Gulf as well as look over Israel, their spoiled and pampered child.

It is frustrating as well as saddening to hear George Bush justify the Gulf war by claiming he intends to free Kuwait. If such a statement, which is an insult to anyone's intelligence, is in fact groundless, why then did George Bush send his troops over to the Gulf? Why is he risking the life of over 500,000 of his men? Even though the answers cannot be easily pin-pointed, here are some suggestions. First, and as previously stated, Americans believe that a strong leader in this region supposedly poses a threat to their economic interests. Memories of the 1973 oil embargo are still vivid in every American mind. Second, for the time being the cold war era is over, and the USA could not justify the presence of thousands of troops in Europe. Many legislators have been debating to cut defence spending by closing military bases in Europe and the United States. Therefore, a solution was to send those troops over to the Gulf, especially since the wealthy Gulf states were financing the war. Third, the American war industry does not survive without wars. This is simple common sense. Boeing, McDonell Douglas, General Dynamics, Northrop, and other companies' revenues are generated through the sale of weapons and war machines. To put it hluntly, no war, no money... Last but not least, this war also represented a golden opportunity for the Americans to control oil resources in the Gulf. In my opnion, the U.S. economy could weather the storm of increasing oil prices, but what about Japan and Europe? Having practically no oil reserves, the Europeans and the Japanese economies could be seriously afflicted by high prices and sharp shortages in oil supply. The Japanese and Europeans need not forget that, first, countries with no natural resources never become economic superpowers, and second, that as long as the United States controls the Gulf oil, Japan and Europe remain at its mercy. This undoubtedly is an unethical yet effective way for the American economy to regain some of the lost competitive edge!

I have attempted to put myself in Bush's unenviable shoes, trying to see from his vantage point, but to no avail. No econom political, or social reason can justify wasting the lives of millions of civilians, destroying a country in its entirety, and destabilising a whole region for many years to come. President Bush is wrong, very wrong if he thinks that he can bring stability and peace by waging a bloody war. Achieving peace through non peace is a contradiction in itself. Bush has repeatedly stated that this is the world and not only the U.S. versus Iraq; well, I find that hard to believe. This so called "new world order" is nothing but a farce! A true world order is established through common goals and objectives, and not through the almighty dollar. No Security Council resolution would have passed if the Soviet Union and China had exercised their veto rights. We can all envision what took place behind closed doors; if the latter two countries had voted against the U.N. Security Council resolutions, they would have received no economic aid from the United States or from any of the Gulf states. In other words, they were bought out. Is this what the "new world order" is all about ... !?

Let us not forget what happened at the advent of the crisis, President Saddam Hussein had promised that he would have withdrawn from Kuwait if there was no foreign intervention. His Majesty King Hussein had received a verbal promise from all Arab leaders, including Egypt's President Mubarak that Saddam would not be condemned by the Arab League and that a mini-summit would be beld to resolve the crisis. Trusting his colleagues, His Majesty conveyed the message to President Hussein who in turn promised to withdraw. Yet, on His Majesty's way back to Jordan, the Arab League hastily met and condemned Iraq; a stab in the back. What happened? Why the sudden change in position? The U.S. had warned Mubarak that be too would receive no greenback if be did not publicly condemn Saddam. Surprise, surprise! Mubarak was also bought.

Why was the U.S. staunchly against an Arab solution? Why didn't they give us a chance to resolve our problems. Never in the history of the world have hundreds of thousands of troops been so rapidly mobilised. Never in the history of the U.N. have so many resolutions been passed against one country. Why this uncalled for sense of urgency? Why did it take the Americans four months to

come to the bargaining table, less than a week before the U.N. deadline? If anyone has caused this crisis to escalate to these extents, it is Bush and not Saddam. The Iraqis repeatedly stated that they were willing to negotiate if the Palestinian issue was addressed. Yet, George Bush refused to hudge. He was neither willing to negotiate nor was be willling to link the two issues. The only reason be proposed that Tareq Aziz and James Baker meet was to tell the world community that every effort to resolve the crisis had been consumed. Baker went to Geneva not to negotiate, but to give Aziz an ultimatum, withdraw or face dire consequences!

Ironically, some are saying that the U.N. backed coalition is a victory for the United Nations. Is that so?! The U.N.'s charter calls for promotion of peace and security and not for the implementation of war resolutions. If this is what the United Nations is all about, then I am sorry to say that we have hit rock-bottom! How come it took the United Nations only five months to enforce scores of resolutions against Iraq whereas for the past 23 years it has failed to implement two resolutions against Israel and its illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Does it require a regionally devastating war to remind the world of the Palestinian people's plight? How many more young men and women's lives will be efore an international peace conference is held? Why has world media gone crazy over the Iraqi Scud attacks on Tel Aviv, but yet has failed to mention the over eight hundred martyrs of the three-year-old Palestinian uprising? Why hasn't the U.N. been mobilised to enforce Resolution 242 and 338? How can the Americans contend that there is no linkage between the two issues? And when will the Americans realise that Saddam's call for a solution of the Palestinian problem is not only his but that of almost

Mr. Bush and his Western allies need to understand it is high time they start treating the Arabs .as fellow human beings. We are. sick and tired of being lookd down at. We are sick and tired of being constantly manipulated. Bush's bumiliating threat to inflict bodily harm to Saddam ("Kick his ... "), is a further example of the West's disrespect towards the Arabs. The treatment of Arabs as low lives with constant threats and ultimatums, will never lead to bargaining tables. The Western world need not worry about the state of affairs in the Middle East and the Gulf. Thank you but we do not need baby-sitters. After all, we have managed to run our business, and quite successfully may I add, long before the West knew what the word "civilisation" meant. On one band, we can solve our own troubles and conflicts, on the other hand though, the West can help us resolve the one problem they helped create, namely Israel.

When told by reporters that an American general had suggested that the war would be over in four days, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan suggested: "If so, what will happen on the fifth day?" Doesn't Bush realise that even if be is the victor, the effects on the region will be transmatic and long-lasting. That he has destabilised this region for many years to come. That the environmental and ecological effects will be none short of devastating. That relations between the West and the Arabs have been seriously scarred and will take many years to heal. That this terrible war, more than any other conflict, will only breed hatred and radicalism, and will subdue all calls for moderation. It will be very hard to bring about peace in this region once again. Rebuilding on top of mountains of rubble is going to be an ardnous

Marwan Juman

Disappointed

To the Editor:

I was interested to read Mr. Anthony Reeve's letter to the Jordanian Students Union on the subject of Iraqi detainees in Britain, as appeared in your paper on Feb. 7, 1991.

I have known Mr. Reeve as both ambassador and friend for a few years and was always impressed by his intellect, attitude and above all "Arab" hospitality. His understanding of the Middle East problems was mature. He was always compassionate and constantly curious. However, I found his response concerning the Iraqi detainees somewhat disappointing.

As I understand protocol and diplomacy, a diplomat is not responsible for setting the foreign policy of his country. Rather, he is the tool to implement such a policy, and it is totally up to him to choose the best method to carry out the set policy, while probably expressing his own influx and attitude into it.

This is where Mr. Reeve failed. His concern for human rights and his versatility with the Geneva Conventions should be commended. However, by being totally one-sided, he nullified any benefits his letter might have carried. Mr. Reeve should have been equally concerned with the 1.7 million Palestinians detained in their homes for nearly 3 weeks, in complete disconcern by Israel of any Geneva Convention. The shelling of Iraqi civilians and the vicious attacks on non-military targets in Iraq should have been matters of concern to the humanity-driven ambassador. I need not remind you of what Mr. Ramsey Clark said forcefully in Iraq that during his tour of Basra he only observed massive destruction of civilian quarters and annihilation of its people, in complete disregard to the Geneva Conventions. Mr. Reeve further failed to

show the least signs of discontent concerning the murderous act by the coalition forces that was committed against Jordanian truck drivers en route to Amman.

We do not blame you personally for acts committed by your? country. But we at least expect that your humanity concerns extend to all parties and all people.

Humanity has no borders and should carry no barriers. This is where you failed and where your letter proved disappointingl

Izzat Dajani,

Effective demonstrations

NO DOUBT that the Gulf crisis has helped in removing masks and disguises, especially after the peace symbol of the U.N. was removed and substituted for war drums beaten by U.S. President Bush who claims that he wants to put the world in a new order; isn't that ridiculous? From what we observe, he is causing only great chaos that reflects all signs of disorder, and contradicts common sense calls for solving America's domestic problems instead of creating new ones in faraway lands. As war goes on one realises that the Zionised West is serving only the Israeli interests in the region, and plans were made long ago to destroy Iraq's advanced technology that could threaten the very existence of Israel. Israel's raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981 proves this point. Therefore, Iraq's occupation of Kuwait is not the real motivation behind this Western attack on Iraq, it is just a pretext to eliminate the ancient Arab Muslim countryl

Iraq refuses to remain within the narrow limits of the Third World category that the superpowers have allocated for us. Leaping beyond these limits towards achieving advancement will result in transmitting this unique case of awakening to the rest of the Arab World. As a result of this awful attack on Iraq protests are heard all over the world because it targetted Iraqi innocent civilians. These noble voices have proved quite effective in the sense that they reflect the adverse feelings of public towards President Bush's tyranny. Such rage extends from Japan and Australia in the east, to North and South America in the west.

The USA and its alliance cannot go on ignoring these cries for ever. The cries against war can develop into sources of terror. Poison gas masks are already carried everywhere by President Bush's bodyguards who fear unexpected chemical attacks on them! Isn't it ironic? Mr. Bush laid the plan for a short tidy war according to him -- and here be is getting himself into a bigger

mess though be is thousands of miles away from the battlefield. One cannot but appreciate the loud protests that are heard throughout Germany; for the Germans themselves experienced great catastrophes during World War I and II; they want to prevent the same thing happening to others. It is worthwhile mentioning the call made by women of Dortmond who sent an appeal to Iraq families through the embassy of Iraq in which they invite Iraqi children to stay temporarily with German families until the danger is over. They seem to have given up, as every one has, on the credibility of the U.N. and its Security Council. As we see, America is not fully satisfied with the food and medicine embargo imposed on the children of Iraq; now Bush augments his appalling action by sending his blessings through waves of continuous

Now it would seem that it is wise not to adhere to the Security Council's biased resolutions any longer. To justify our point let us go through the Geneva Conventions to ponder on the eighth article regarding the protection of children during catastrophes. Ironically, the U.S., with the help of its U.N. friends has worked hard to create catastrophes for Iraqi children, not to mention Lebanese children who grew up in a state of war that lasted for fifteen years and was often worsened by Israeli bombings after its forces occupied South Lebanon.

Let us come back to the issue of demonstrations and try to analyse these protests that take place in the N. African Arab countries, where millions of marchers hall Iraq's bravery and steadfastness. Such voices are well appreciated by Iraqis but they will be more valuable if they can really serve Iraq's perseverance if pressure was exerted on their governments. For instance gas and oil that is pumped from Algeria and Libya to France and Italy must be stopped immediately. On the other hand stronger appeals must come out of the Moroccan demonstrators to pull their troops out of Saudi Arabia. Also the Arab masses must take, seriously, further steps towards attaining self-sufficiency such as cutting down on food, fuel and energy consumption. Such goals can be achieved through self-control and if it seems arduous to us then we ought to remember Mahatma Gandhi of India.

Therefore, if such marches are to be more beneficial then they must be ramified into different channels; taking a good lesson from the Palestinian uprising whose struggle erupted out of the continuous street protests against the Israeli occupiers.

Nadia Hashem Aloui,

A think-tank on call

By Patrick Worsnin

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LONDON --- Jan. 17, Iraq: allied bombers pounded Iraqi command and control systems as the Gulf war began.

4,000 kilometres away, at an unprepossessing red brick building in central London, the switchboard was soon jammed.

A small sign on the front door ready: The International Institute for Strategic Studies. Inside, everyone who could be reached was talking on the phone.

In Saudi Arabia, commanders of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq recled off a string of claimed esses. But it was to the experts of the IISS, in the heart of London's Covent Garden theatreland, that much of the world's media came to find out what it all meant.

"The Gulf war flooded us out with enquiries and demands for interviews to all branches of the media," says Colonel Andrew Duncan, assistant director for in-

'I myself must have done close to 200 broadcasts to about 20 countries since Aug. 2 (When Iraq invaded Kuwait)," he said, adding that about eight of the resident analysts had taken the brunt of the requests.

This IISS is not alone in Britain in the field of punditry, one industry to show rapid growth as a result of the war.

Experts from other thinktanks, academics from universities up and down the land, retired military officers and journalists from specialist magazines like Jane's Defence Weekly have been recruitd by the dozen by television channels and newspap-

Armed with maps, charts and models, they have sought to explain to a defuddled public what they think is going on in the Gulf deserts, and what could happen

But the IISS has a towering reputation as probably the leading institute in its field in Britain and perhaps in the world. Staff attribute this to its international character, rigorous standards and financial independence.

Its annual handbook "The Military Balance," a 250-page fount of information about the world's armed forces, is a bible to strategists from Buenos Aires to

Founded in 1958 by a group of British academics, politicians, military officers, journalists and churchmen to study the growing complexity of security in a neclear age, the institute went fully intenational six years later.

Today, its governing council has members from 16 countries and its 3,000-strong membership list covers 97 countries and reads like a who's of the world's top officials, diplomats, military men and academics dealing with strategic affairs.

Since 1987, the institute has cultivated a dynamic image under the directorship of François Heisbourg, son of a semor Luxem-

bourg diplomat. Still only 41, Heisbourg has had a meteoric career as policy planner and adviser at the French foreign and defence ministries and then vice-president of the French state-owned elec-

The prestige of the IISS contrasts with its modest premises.

Staff and researchers work in cramped an dingy offices and one employee called the meeting room "one of the most inconvenient in London." The 120 people who can squeeze in "when we hire the small chairs" can barely hear or see the speaker.

The budget too is small, about three million dollars a year. Some 60 per cent of the institute's income comes from membership fees, sales of publications and investments, the rest from foundations to fund about 20 research

It is the proud boast of the institute that, to preserve its independence, it takes virtually no money from governments, nor does it do consultancy work for industry.

The Gulf war will mean no direct windfalls for the IISS as its experts are allowed to keep their broadcasting fees. But it hopes to gain from increased sales of its books and a rise in membership.

Objective and factual as the IISS may try to be, can it really be neutral, given that most of its staff and council are from Western countries?

"I suppose you could say we can't help but look at things through Western eyes," Duncan, a 61-year-old former British army intelligence officer, admitted in an interview.

"We see our role only as ex-Hebrew University in Jerusalem. plaining, not profbesying," Dun-can said. "When we don't know we say we don't. That's one advantage we have over the

For Palestinians, Iraq is only viable challenge to Israel

By Rosalind Mandine USIA

WASHINGTON — Palestinian support for Iraqi President Sadm Hussein is an expression of Arab nationalism and not an endorsement of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, according to two prominent scholars on the Arab World.

Palestinian support for Iraq is motivated by Iraq's position as "the only viable" Arab challenge to Israel in the region and a sense of Arb and Muslim solidarity, Mohammad Hallaj, director of the Palestine Research and Education Centre in Fairfax, Virginia, and Hisham Sharabi, professor of Arab culture at Georgetown University, said February

They spoke at a conference exploring the effects of the conflict in the Gulf on the Palestinians, sponsored by the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine. Also participating were William Quandt, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, Ziad Abu Amr, professor of political science at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, Bishara Bahbah, director and senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine, and Shukri Abed, a research fellow in Islamic studies at the Truman Institute of the

The Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine is an educational programme of the Jerusalem Fund, a Washington-based nonprofit organisation. The centre is dedicated to the study and analysis of the relationship between the United States and the Middle East, with particular emphasis on the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It is a distortion to interpret Palestinian sympathy with Iraq as an endorsement of the occupation of Kuwait," Mohammad Hallaj said. He noted that the Palestine Liberation Organisation called for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces within an Arabmediated peace framework at the start of the crisis.

Palestinians see the conflict in n West versus Arab context, and the allied bombing of Iraq underscores this perception, Hallaj said. Palestinians, as well as some other Arab and Muslim groups, view the bombing as an attempt to destroy Iraq as a state, be said, adding that this view has given the "preservation of Iraq greater urgency than the bberation of Knwait." The choice then became "Arab nationalism against Western hegemony" rather than the liberation of Kuwait, he said.

Iraq's position as "the only viable" Arab challenger to Israel's military superiority in the region is a major motivating force for Palestinian support, Hallai said. "It is not so much Iraq's military power that Palestinians cheer, but the political implecations of that military power," be noted.

Because the bombing of Iraq may eliminate this challenge to Israel, Palestinians see it "as a determination to sanctify the status quo in the region, which is humiliating and detremental to their interests," Hallai said,

ment, saying that "America's attack on Iraq turned a hated dictator into a symbol of Arab

Sharabi said reaction in the Arab and Muslim world against the West and in favour of Iraq has been "limited and measured" because Iraq is still intact and there is a bope that the conflict will end without defeat and humiliation.

However, "if Iraq is destroyed with tens of thousands of casualties, and Saddam Hussein is martyred, the result will likely be the destabilisation of the countries in the region for some time to come," Sharabi said. The conficit has already fueled the rise of Islamic fundamentalist parties in the region, he noted.

William Quandt agreed that the way the United States conducts the next phase of the war has implications for the region.

If the battle shifts to Kuwait, Iraqi forces are dislodged, and the United States stops there that will temper perceptions that the United States is interested only in destroying an Arab country," Quandt said. However, he cantioned that what happens next is not totally within the control of the allied coalition.

"If President Bush is prepared to stop there, Saddam Hussein may not want to play that way. The longer the war goes on, the greater personal prestige (for Saddam Hussein) and polarisation in the region. It will be a tough war to end. It's not just dependent on America's restraint

Quandt said.

In practical terms, the conflict in the Gulf has had devastating economic consequences for the Palestinians and complicated political issues such as the leadership role of the PLO and the peace process, the participants

Ziad Abu Amr said that the ontcome of the conflict will directly affect the Palestinian leadership and the role of the

"If Iraq loses, the PLO will be beld accountable for siding with Iraq," he noted. This will be translated in the loss of financial backing and geographic sanctuary, he said. There may even be an effort in the Arab League, sponsored by the Arab countries in the allied coalition, to withdraw recognition of the PLO as the official representative of the Palestinian people, Abn Amr suggested.

Support from the Israeli left for the Palestinians has been challenged by the conflict, Shukri Abed pointed out. Many of these Israeli feel "betrayed" by Palestinian support for Iraq, he said. Although these Israelis still support the idea of a two state solution, they have "disassociated themselves from the PLO," Abed said.

Abed also suggested that the Gulf conflict bas provided the Shamir government with a justification to arrest moderate Palestinians, such as Sari Nusseibeh, in an effort to discredit local Palestinian leadership. Nusseibeh has been charged with being a spy for Iraq. Iraq Scud missile attacks on Israel have also intensified Israeli calls for the expulsion of Palestinians, Abed

Bishara Bahbah said that the economic impact of the conflict on the Palestinians "is indisput-ably devastating." The conflict has "virtually destroyed the economic basis of the Palestinians' in the occupied territories and Kuwait and "plunged the PLO into serious financial difficulties." he said.

The conflict has resulted in the loss of \$150 million in wages for the Palestinians who fled Kuwait and those who remained, Bahbah

Palestinians living in the occupied territories have experienced a 60 per cent drop in income: due to the loss of remittances, the 20 per cent drop in the Jordanian dinar, a decrease in trourism revenue, greater Israeli control over Palestinian exports and an expanded curfew in the occupied territories, he said. The occupied territories and the PLO have also suffered a loss in financial assistance from Kuwait and the lessening of aid from other Gulf states,

The total economic loss for the Palestinians caused by the conflict is \$420 million a year, Bahbah said, This economic crisis will afect the future of the intifada and the PLO leadership,

Assault

(Continued from page 1) on the highest state of readiness and

preparedness to destroy the evil mer-cenaries, the Americans, the British, The Iraqi people had managed to absorb the shocks of the unreleating

air strikes, he added. The radio said in a commentary that "dark days and even darker nights" awaited the 700,000-strong

ultinational force trying to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The radio said that round-the-clock allied air strikes since the Gulf war crupted on Jan. 17 "have not harmed and will not be able to harm our

beroic armed forces." The radio could not be heard by has been heavily jammed by the

The Iranian news agency IRNA said allied sircraft attacked targets in eastern and southern Iraq during the night and on Tuesday morning and that the force of the blasts shook

several Iranian border towns.
It said a "huge explosion" from
inside Iraq shook buildings in several Iranian border towns in the western province of liam early on Tuesday. "The explosion was heard at 0500 (0130 GMT). Eyewitnesses said it may have occurred in Iraq's border areas of Mandali or Baqubah. They also said they heard Western fighters flying over the eastern Iraqi border

towns during the whole night until this morning." IRNA said. IRNA said allied planes hit Iraq's southern cities of Basra, Abu Khasib, Zubair and Tumuma Monday night and Tuesday morning. The force of bomb and missiles explosions shook windows in the southern Iranian port cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan.

ritnesses in areas bordering Iraq said they had seen the invad forces flying over the Bassa area 18 es yesterday and had heard the sound of 20 explosions," IRNA said. Baghdad Radio, addressing allied

troops, said:
"We have prepared for you everything necessary in stifle your rancour and extinguish your brutality — Iraqi slaps in your faces, Iraqi blows to your backs."
"They will... conclusively prove to

you that the great Iraq of Saddam Housein is stronger than the invasion and bigger than the aggression... and that those who deluded you into thinking that Iraq would surrender are hypocrites and liars," it said.

"Infidel aggressors, retreat from your tyranny before it is too late, save your blood before you swim in it," it added. So powerful were the bombard-

ments that part of the local govern-ment building crumbled to the

Allied warplanes first attacked the ministry Jan. 22, but inflicted only alight damage. The ministry is headed by Ali Hassan Al Mand, a cousin and close side to President Suddam who

Ireq's Aug. 2, invasion.

There was no indication Mr. Majid was at the ministry during the early morning attacks. Reporters taken to the site six hours later saw flames rising from the wreckage. Allied raids have destroyed four of

the city's 12 bridges over the Tigris River. If the remaining bridges are destroyed, the city will be divided into western and castern sectors, separating many families and disrupt-

Along Haifa Street, women wailed in front of their homes.

"Why is America hitting us? If they why is America muting us? If they are brave, let them fight our troops, not kill civilians," said Nadia Abdul Kareem, a civil eagineer who had come in assess damages caused in the two government buildings.

Two fireballs rose in Baghdad

Tuesday after the latest raids scored direct hits on the two ministries near densely populated Haifa Street, a business and residential route in the city centre.
Witnesses said at least six people

died in the raids on Haifa Street and 17 were wounded, many seriously. "This is a systematic campaign by the United States in destroy Iraq. These are deliberate attacks on the city with intention to kill people in Iraq," said Najif Al Hadithi, director

general of the Information Ministry.

Primakov

(Continued from page 1)

four-man crew from the CBS network, led by Bob Simon. "He was instructed to inquire of the Iraqi leaders about their fate and, if possible, help them out of that situation," the spokes-

Mr. Ignatenko also repeated Moscow's assertions that Mr. Primakov was sent to Iraq to demand an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, adding there was no back-door approach by the Kremlin to its former Middle East ally. ..

"We have not brought to Bagh-dad any secret protocols, any secret agreements," he said. Noting that Primakov had not yet met the Iraqi president, he warned: "Our influence on Baghdad is very small."

Many analysts believe Moscow is looking beyond the Gulf war and preparing for the task of rebuilding relations with Iraq once the fighting is over.

Alexander Dzasokhov, a member of Communist Party politburo and chairman of the parliamentary foreign relations committee, Monday hinted any sudden broadening of military operations against Iraq could endanger U.S.-Soviet ties.

But Soviet conservatives and military hardliners have attacked this stance, saying Moscow is slavishly following Washington's Gulf policies and should never have supported the attack on what was a key ally.

Several Soviet newspapers Tuesday restated Mr. Gorbachev's worries that the allies could go beyond the U.N. man-

Mix of recession and war creates management minefield for businesses

By Rick Gladstone The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Outhoard Marine Corp., maker of recreational boats, was a typical American company dealing with a typical American slump in demand — until operation Desert

Storm hit. defence got an immediate shot of adrenalin from the Gulf mobilisation, but the equipment Outboard Marine makes is destined for the lake, not the Gulf.

Like most businesses around the country, the boat builders at Outboard Marine are still struggling to figure out what the Gulf war means to them.

For many, it poses more obstacles than opportunities. Retailers are rethinking buying plans, big manufactures are trimming staff and rejiggering production schedules, airlines are shrinking, and companies with far-flung offices and customers are dealing with people over the phone instead of

At Outboard Marine, managers can't estimate when business will improve, said Ronald Kuykendall, a spokesman for the Waukegan, Illinois, manufacturer. That is, he said, unless "you can tell me the exact duration of this war and what we as a nation are going

to spend on it."

The boat company's reluctance to gamble on what lies ahead illustrates the business planning communication posed by a declining

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economy and an escalating war. The jarring coincidence of the first recession in eight years and the biggest military assault in a generation has handicapped strategic planners in corporate offices around the United States.

The uncertainty has convinced some to simply toss plans out the window - and then board the window up to ride out the storm. Business complications range from unpredictable costs to possihle supply shortages. Firms also must weigh consumer fears about spending money or traveling far from home.

Companies hit particularly hard include those that rely on discretionary spending for survival, such as department stores, airlines, toymakers and other recreational equipment manufacturers, many of them already saddled with buge dehts from the

borrowing binge of the 1980s. Even some of the country's mightiest companies have been forced to revise carefully drawn

For example, General Motors Corp., the nation's largest industrial company, took the highy unusual step of slashing its quarterly dividend to stockholders, cutting capital spending plans and reducing the staff because of the impact of the war.

In some ways, management experts say, the war has hurt big companies even more than smaller ones, simply because of the enormous difficulties in putting brakes on any buge bureaucracy

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nished.

"It is very, very hard for a large company to change direction because of the systems and the culture," said Karen C. Weeder of Change Management Associates Inc., a consulting firm in

Winnetka, Illinois. Robert S. Wilkerson, head of the Corporate Response Group tendency in large corporations to say, 'we're so big it doesn't mat-

Even for small and mid-range

less ominous ways. Newspapers and broadcasters

are facing higher costs for covering the war at a time when they can ill afford the added expenses due to a prolonged slump in advertising income.

An important furniture industry exhibition in Germany recently was canceled because attendance Inc., a consulting firm in ... was expected to be down due to Washington, said "there's a fears of war-related terrorism. Some fashion designers and suppliers that ordinarily send emissaries to European shows at this time of year have scrapped their

The war will increase the pressure on

the aftermath of the easy-money 1980 s.

banks, already under severe strain from

manufacturers like Outboard Marine, which makes boats ranging from canoes to 12 metre cruisers, running a business during the war is the corporate equivalent of carrying a gas mask

and skirting a minefield. Kuykendall said the company planners believe it is in a strategic position to remain a dominant force in boating, but "we're playing our manufacturing strategy very cantiously at this point."

The war has affected other businesses in subtle but nonethe"I think, like a lot of other business people, that you get concerned about terrorists and traveling." said Howard Bloom, president of Chetta B. Inc., a women's apparel company in

New York. Bloom delayed plans to visit Europe, where he's hoping to expand his business. "T'll go when some of the smoke clears a little bit," he said.

The war will increase the pressure on banks, already under se-

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vere strain from the aftermath of the easy-money 1980s. Martin D. Weiss, publisher of the Bank Safety Directory of West Palm

un to 35 U.S. banks will fail soon due to the added financial burden of the war and its aftermath." If there's a management lesson to be learned from the events in the Gulf since Iraq invaded Kuwait six months ago, it's that

Beach, Florida, said he expects

nothing should be taken for granted anymore. "We are moving into a world, of which the war is the first chapter, that's got very different alliances and very different problems, and inherently much more uncertainty than we had in the 1980s," said Gail Fosler, chief economist for the Conference Board, a New York-based research group that tracks broad

trends in business and the eco-Illustrating the range of possibilities and inability to predict which is most likely, the group recently spun four forecasts, depending partly on whether the war and recession are short or

protracted. In the best-case scenario, a quick war and prosperity, the economy will grow five-tenths of a per cent this year, inflation will rise 5.2 per cent and unemployment will total 6.5 per cent. In the worst case, a long war and recession, growth will fall 1.2 per cent. inflation will grow \$.1 per cent and unemployment will reach 7.8

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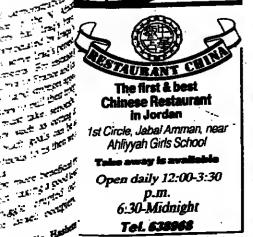
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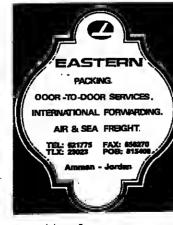


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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Hearns knocks out Morton

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) - Thomas Hearns knocked out Kemper Morton at two minutes of the second round in a tuneup for his World Boxing Association (WBA) light heavyweight championship bout against Virgil Hill

in three months. Hearns, who weighed 173 pounds (77.8 kilogrammes), used a left uppercut to floor his lightly regarded opponent, who came into the fight having lost two of his last four outings. Referee Pat Russell counted Morton out to and the bout at 2:02.

The bout was scheduled for 10

Hill was at ringside and Hearns said afterwards, "I wanted to give Virgil Hill something to see."

Hearns will challenge the un-beateo Hill on May 17 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. "I knew if I could get my left hand to work, I could put him on his seat," Hearns said.

Hearns, 32, raised his record to 48-3-1 with 39 knockouts. He is the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super middleweight champion and was the first boxer ever to win championships in five different weight classes.

Hearns joited Morton with a left hand at 55 seconds of the first round, the first real punch he threw. At two minutes of the opening round, Hearns hurt Morton with a left-right combination.

Morton came out more aggressive in the second round and landed a few punches, but none seemed to hurt Hearns.

Hearns landed a left at 1:20 of the second round which hurt Morton and connected several more times before finishing him off with the left upperent.

Hearns was fighting for the first time since last April 28 when he scored a 12-round decision over Michael Olajide in Atlantic City, New Jersey, to retain his WBO super middleweight crown.

Morton, 30, is ranked as the 12th-leading light heavyweight challenger by the United States Boxing Association. He fell to 17-7-2 with 12 knockouts.

Hearns spent 10 days in late October and early November visiting U.S. troops in Saudi Ara-

He donated his \$50,000 purse to the United Services Organisation, marking what he previously called the beginning of the Tho-mas Hearns USO Fund established to benefit U.S. posts worldwide.

Hearns also received \$212,000 in expenses, according to a California Athletie Commissiou spokesman. Morton earned

Terry Norris did it to Sugar Ray Leonard. Now, Virgil Hill believes he can do it to Thomas

"I think it's time for Hearns to retire and I'd like to be the one to retire him," Hill said Monday night after watching Hearns beat

"It's hard to assess a fight when it only goes two rounds," Hill said. "He (Hearns) seemed a little sluggish. It's hard to say what kind of shape he's in. He showed he still hits hard. Kemper can take a good shot.

"He was not in the best of condition I'm sure he will be on May 17. He's not as strong as he used to be, but he still possesses

punching power."
"I'm a little rusty, I have to admit," Hearps said.

Holyfield, Foreman to fight in Atlantic City

NEW YORK (AP) - It seems Donald Trump will be able to keep his Evander Holyfield-George Foreman heavyweight title fight in Atlantic City, New Jersey, after all.

A tentative arrangement was revealed Monday night by Dan Duva, who would co-promote the bout with Bob Arum on April 19. The site promoter would be

Tramp. A news conference was scheduled for noon Tuesday at Trump's Plaza Hotel to make it official.

"We have reached a tentative agreement," Duva told the Associated Press by telephone Monday night.

Trump had bought the fight for \$11 million, and his Trump Plaza Hotel Casmo would be the

live site promter. Trump, however, last week said there was a "war clause" in the agreement and that the Gulf conflict activated the clause. He said the war was affecting the hotel casino business in Atlantic City and sought to reduce the live site payment from \$11 million to the \$5 million range.

Both Duva and Arum said the war clause was not in effect and threatened to move the fight to Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. "We're encouraged that the

event will happen as scheduled in Atlantic City," Duva said. .
But when asked if the fight fee would remain \$11 million, he

added: "I can't say anything on that at this time.' The fight between Holyfield

and Foreman is expected to be the highest grossing in history. Holyfield is the undisputed 12th game, only to have Smylie heavyweight champion.

Tauziat beats Smylie in slims of Chicago win the next three points. Smylie forced the match to go to deuce

Rosset eliminates Svensson in Brussels

BRUSSELS (AP) — Unseeded

Marc Rosset of Switzerland beat

fifth-seeded Swede Jonas Svens-

son 6-0. 6-4, on the opening day

of the \$100,000 Donnay Indoor

Svensson, who ended 1990

ranked 11th in the world, became.

the first seeded player to be

eliminated in the week-long Bel-

In other action, Andrei Cher-

kasov of the Soviet Union beat

CHICAGO (AP) - Eighth-

seeded Nathalie Tanziat of

France rallied from a 3-1 third-set

deficit Monday to defeat Eli-

zabeth Smylie 6-2. 6-7 (5-7), 7-5 in the first round of the \$350,000

There were five service breaks

in the final set before the world's

16th-ranked player ended the

two-hour match, forcing her An-

stralian opponent to hit her serve

Tauziat had Smylie at match

point four times before her vic-

In earlier matches, Tami Whit-

linger outlasted Robin White, 7-6

(7-3), 6-0, and Ann Grossman

was too tough for Gigi Fernan-dez. 2-7. 7-5, 6-3.

Tauziat, after breaking Smylie

twice in the opening set, trailed

5-1 in the second set before ral-

lying to win five straight games.

But, Smylie, rated 51st in the

Smylie squared the match at a

set apiece, smashing a return at

the feet of Tauziat and getting her

opponent to hit a return over the

Tauziat had double faulted in

the 10th game of the final set,

squaring the set at five games-

After forcing the 11th game to

go to deuce, Smylie lost her

serve, hitting two straight returns

Tauziat went up 10-0 in the

end line.

apiece.

into the net.

world, won the 12th game, fore-

mg the 12-point tie breaker.

Virginia Slims of Chicago.

over the end line.

Tennis Championships.

Spain's unseeded Juan Aguillera,

6-2, 6-2, and sixth-seeded Andrei

Chesnokov, also of the Soviet

Union, scored a 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Christian Bergstrom

Bergstrom replaced Todd Witsken of the United States in

the tournament draw. Witsken

pulled out of the tourney because

Australia's Pat Cash, a wild-

card entry who has slipped hadly

of Sweden.

of an illness

twice before bowing out. "It was a very strange match," said Tauziat. "It was like a boxing match with both players coming

"She played good some times, other times, she could not get to the hall," Tauziat said of her opponent.
The Grossman-Fernandez

match was marred by a racketthrowing incident on the part of Fernandez iu the seventh game of the final set.

With Grossman ahead 4-2, Fernandez suddenly smashed her

racket twice when her return off a drop shot was voided because the ball had bounced twice.

in world rankings, struggled to a 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 win over Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia in a

match lasting two hours and 12

The Belgian Indoor event ends

next Sunday and has attracted the

world's top two players, no. 1

Boris Becker and second-ranked

States, the world's no. 4-ranked

player, also is scheduled to com-

Andre Agassi of the United

Stefan Egberg.

What hothered Grossman, ranked 50th, was that chair umpire Lambert Chapin did not penalise Fernandez.

"I was warned for violating the one-minute time rule between games," she noted. "There's uo way he should

have let her get away with it, using profanity, and not getting a waroing, I told the umpire," Grossman said.

"So I told him, but what could .he say? added Grossman. "He was guilty."

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and training partner Baki Brahmia.

North, South Korea agree on joint sports team

PANMIJNJOM. Korea (R) --North and South Korea, still technically at war, agreed Tuesday to form joint teams for the first time to represent the divided peninsula at international sports

Forging an agreement first sought in 1984, the two Koreas agreed to send teams under one flag to a table tennis tournament in Japan in April and a soccer festival in Portugal in June.

li the agreement is implemented, it would be the first time any inter-Korean joint entity appeared under a Korean flag ince the ceninsula was divided in 1945 at the end of World War II. Hosniin'es have never been for-

fought the hitter 1950-53 Korean Waī. Talks aimed at forming a joint team for the 1988 Olympics in

Seoul and the 1990 Asian Games

mully ended since the two sides

in Peking failed. North Korea boycotted the Seoul Olympiad and both countries sent their own teams to the Asiad.

"We've exchanged the same feeling, that we must form a united team to the two games.", an official at Seoul's North-South Dialogue Office said.

The current round of talks began last autumn after historic soccer matches in Seoul and Pyongyang hetween Northern and Southern teams. While both sides agreed in

principle to field joint teams. talks became deadlocked over details. Delegates meeting Tuesday at the truce village straddling the heavily fortified border made

announced at about 11,40 a.m. (0240 GMT). The delegations then resumed

mutual concessions on training

vennes. Agreement was

working level meetings to set the final details and were expected to announce five separate accords Tuesday at Panmuniom.

"It's a glimmer of hope." a Western diplomat said. "After all if they can't agree on a few items in the sports arena, there's little

hope for anything else." But the diplomat causioned that sports agreements had foundered in the past. "One can't be sure these things will happen until they happen.

The team's flag, name and anthem had been agreed in a previous round of sports talks in 1989 when the Koreas sought unsuccessfully to form a joint national team for the 1990 Asian

Contacts between them have accelerated since their prime ministers met for the first time in Seoul in September last year. A

In the 1990 World Cup he sat

on the bench until coach Luis

Suarez grew disenchanted with

Atletico's Manolo Sanchez. Sali-

nas did not score, but he did

create a game-winning penalty

kick against Belgium that pushed

Spain to the top of its first-round

Salinas, who arrived in Barce-

lona in 1988, has never had

Crayff's full confidence. Last sea-

son, he said the constant substitu-

tions had caused him mental

"When they pull you out con-

tinually, it hurts a lot," he told a Madrid sports daily. "I feel impo-

tent knowing that every match I'll

Salinas could benefit from a

chat with English striker Gary

Lineker, Lineker, a hero in two

World Cups who now plays with

English club Tottenham, lan-

guished on the bench at Barcelo-

na while Cruyff tried to convince

him he should be playing the

anguish.

be substituted.

fourth such round of talks is scheduled in Pyongyaug from Feb. 25 to 28. The talks, the highest level

inter-Korean dialogue, have yielded little hut agreement to keep talking. Under Tuesday's agreement,

the two sides will send joint teams to the 41st World Table Tennis Championships in April and the World Youth Soccer Festival in-June under the team name 'Korea" in English. South Korean delegates agreed

to a Northern proposal that the table tennis teams train jointly int Japan, and the North Koreans agreed to a Southern demand that the soccer teams train jointly in bc h countries.

. is previously agreed, the team flag will depict the outline of the Korean peninsula. The team anthem will be "Arirang", a popular Korean folk song.

Salinas silences another critic

MADRID (AP) — FC Barcelona forward Julio Salinas has haffled soccer purists with his gawky but apparently effective style through seven scasons in Spain's first divi-

He has come under repeated public criticism from coaches and other soccer pundits, who insister the 1.88-metre forward is not up to first-division standards. Yet he has commued to score

goals, despite not always being in the starting lineup. Barcelona's Dutch coach Johan Cruyli was the latest to seemingly

criticise Salinas prematurely. Following Barcelona's Feb. 10 draw with Valencia. Cruyff blamed Salinas for his leagueleading club not winning, accusing the forward of "not even touching the hall."

That set off rumours that the Spanish international star would be sold at the end of the season. But on Sunday, Salinas scored one goal, set up two others and ned another score nullified in Barcelona's 4-2 victory over Be-

When reporters cornered Cruyff following the game, the coach tersely said: "If Salinas always played like he did today. I'd be extremely pleased."

Salinas, 28, hegan playing in the Athletic Bilbao organisation when he was 11. In 1983-84 he scored 22 goals in the second division and won his ticket to the first-division team, where he was joined later by his younger brother Patxi.,...

Since then, despite frequent criticism, he has steadily improved his standing among the thin ranks of native Spanish goal scorers in the first divis

He looks too awkward to succeed in the swift Spanish League. But his long legs serve to protect the hall against tacklers, and he has scored an average of 17 goals a season. This season he has five, but has started few matches.

He was traded to Atletico Madrid in 1986, where he continued to score hat complained bitterly because he felt coach Cesar Luis Menotti of Argentina didn't give him enough playing

That same year. Salinas began playing for the national team, scoring a goal in his debut match.

Platini keeps faith with squad

PARIS (R) - France's soccer coach Michel Platini named an almost unchanged squad Monday for the crucial European Championship Gronp 1 qualifier against Spain in Paris on Feb. 20.

cruysse and Jean-Marc Ferreri were both dropped after poor performances in the league. Vercruysse did not play for

The only real surprise came in

midfield, where Philippe Ver-

Marseille in last weekend's victory at Paris St. Germain and Ferreri has failed to shine recently with struggling Bordeaux.

But Platini did keep faith with veteran midfielder Luis Fernandez, a former colleague in the magical French team that won the European Championship in 1984, despite a lingering dispute between them.

Algerian sets sight on world indoor 1,500 record

THE ONLY THING THESE

MORE FOR YOUR MONE
THAN IT USED TO.

NEW YORK (R) — Algerian Noureddine Morceli, who just missed the world indoor mile record Friday, said he will trun his attention to the 1,500-metre indoor mark of Briton Peter

"It will be very easy to break the 1,500 world (indoor) record. It wil be much easier than the mile," Morceli said at an athletics news conference Monday.

Morceli, the world's topranked outdoor 1,500 runner last year, has targetted a meeting in Seville, Spain. on Feb. 28 - his 21st birthday — for his assault on Elliot's indoor mark of three minutes 34.20 seconds, set last year in Seville.

Morceli predicted he can run the 1,500 in 3:31. The Algerian's confidence was inspired by a 1,500-metre split time of 3:35 in speeding to the world's third fastest indoor mile of 3:50.81 at the Meadowlands Invitational Indoor Athletics meeting Friday.

The world indoor mile record of 3:49.78 is held by Eamonn Coghlan of Ireland.

"I am very confident about myself," Morceli said. "If I stay healthy and have no injuries I can (break the record)."

Assisting Morceli in his record hid will be two pace-setters. The first will take him through 800 metres and the second to about 1,200 metres.

three-quarters mark, he'll he . flying," said Morceli's compatriot

SELBS

A DEBATE MIGHT BE THE LONGEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS-

KOVINE Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Jumbles: CHALK PATCH EXODUS TEACUP Answer: The only thing that's ever raised on some city land—THE TAXES

THE Daily Crossword by Martha J. De Witt

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

Q.1-As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠ K8762 " AQE The bidding has proceeded: East Pass South 3 West 1 🛊 Pass

Q.2-As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠ A73 K7 The bidding has proceeded: South West 2 ♣ 2 ♣ East North 1 🌩

4 + Pass ? What do you bid now? A .- What started out as a sound raise is now questionable—the subsequent bidding indicates that your ace of spades might be a wasted value, facing a void in partner's hand. Therefore, we recommend a

Q.3-As South, vulnerable, you nold: ♦ 10 J6

trump response does not promise a balanced hand. You are nowhere near strong enough for an immediate two-club response, which would be forcing for a round.

1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc

WEEKLY BRIDGE OUIZ

What do you bid now?

A.—We think it's safe to presume that there are no losers in the majors; thus, slam depends entirely on partner's controls. We would use Blackwood to check on ages and kings, intending to bid a spade grand slam should partner, as we expect, turn up with two aces and a

K876 **◆9765** 3 NT Pass Pass

slightly conservative raise to five clubs.

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take? A.—Bid one no trump. Unlike a no-trump opening bid, a one-no-

GOREN BRIDGE

±J7 ⊕104 ⊕J543 **★**A10952 The bidding has proceeded: North Sooth 1 NT Pass 1 🛧 Pass Pass What do you bid now? A.—The one action we don't rec-ommend is a bid of three oo

Q.5-Neither vulnerable, as South The hidding has proceeded:
North East Sooth West
1 & Pass 1 NT Pass Pass

What action do you take? A.—Partner is simply showing 10 or 11 cards in the majors, with spades at least as long, or longer, than hearts. You have no reason to presume that you can make more than game. So your duty, with equal length in partner's suits, is to correct to his first-bid suit.

The bidding has proceeded: West North East Pass 2 4 Pass

Q.4-Neither vulnerable, as South

1rump-your diamond stopper is virtually non-existent. We suggest a preference to three spades, to see what partner does next.

Pass Pass 3 🛊

Q.6-As South, vulnerable, you **♠KQ1093** 76 ⊕AQ54 ♠KJ3

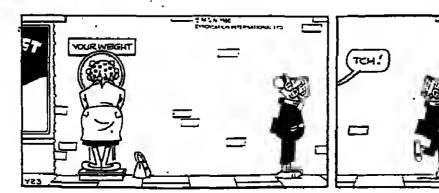
What do you bid now? A .- Partner's two-club response has improved your hand enormously, and a raise to three clubs doesn't do it full justice. Plan to hid our your shape by first rebidding two diamonds, then jump raising elubs at your next turn.

Mutt'n'Jeff 1 HAD ALL MY IT'S YOUR I DID HAVE IT'S ON THE AH. I SEE YOU'RE ALL 1 GOT A THE DOC FIXED SAME TROUBLE! MY TONSILS | RIGHT SIDE TONSILS SHARP PAIN RIGHT NOW JEFF! TEETH TAKEN UNTIL I HAD ALL OUT BUT 1 STILL BAD TONSILS OUT, DOC, BUT MY TEETH GOT A PAIN CAN CAUSE I STILL GOT REMOVED! IN MY FOOT! ALL KINDS OF A PAIN IN TROUBLE! MY FOOT! IN MY MY SHOE! APPENDIX FOOT REMOVED! GUS NO THE MY FOOT. SHOEMAKER





Peanuts



14 Apiece 15 Actress Turn 18 Part of RFD 17 Cupld 18 Kuwaiii e.g. 19 Grenoble is its capital 20 Painstaking application 21 Used 23 Hemingway 25 implement 26 Luxurious 28 Postpones 33 Sedate 36 BPOE word 39 Brainstorm 39 Brainstorm 40 Roof edges 41 Sped 42 Carbo 43 Heroic 44 A few 45 TV editor 46 Ransort



1 Quiet 2 Truman's birthplace ensemble Explosion

genie 31 Nerve network 32 Ger. valley 33 Soothsayer 34 Record e TV show Enthusiastic 37 Vamoose 38 Was aware 42 "No pain, no —" Waters

49 Pertain 51 Disgrace 52 Domingo for 57 Angle 58 Toward the center
59 Peat e.g.
60 Corner
61 Slaughter
baseball

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

Gulf war hits Asia's tourist trade

Kong hotels are lowering prices, jacking them up and Thai vendors are selling Saddam Hussein

The month-old Gulf war is ા having an impact on Asia's tourism industry with cancellations and a worldwide decrease in travel hitting regional airlines and

> Many countries are hoping intra-Asia tourists will take up the slack. They are introducing a wide range of measures to attract

> > "We're finding that long-hau!

markets are being more affected than regional markets." said Penny Byrne, spokeswoman for the Hongkong Tourist Association. "Some people who were plana ning to go (to the United States or Europe) are deciding to travel within Asia instead," be noted. Fear of guerrilla attacks has sure travellers from the United States, Europe and Japan to cancel or postpone trips.

Arrivals from Europe to Australia on Qantas Airlines bave plummeted 50 per cent since the war began on Jan. 17, and airline spokesman said. Those from Japan have dropped 40 per cent.

'Many U.S. companies are asking their employees not to travel unless it's essential," said Karina Leung, spokeswoman for Hongkong's Cathay Pacific Air-

Bookings for Cathay's longhaul flights bave fallen to about 60 to 65 per cent from the normal rate of 70 to 75 per cent since the war hegan, she said.

The war has put a damper on Asia's traditionally thriving night-

In Seoul, a six-to-six curfew on U.S. sevicemen, lifted only last week, saw a drop in customers in

Business for Thailand's go-go bars and sex shows has suffered after the government ordered neon lights to be switched off at 9 p.m. and the number of Arab guests fell by 43 per cent.

While intercontinental travel has lagged, regional business has remained strong, with healthy bookings by Hong Kong and Taiwan travellers for the Chinese lunar new year holiday on Feb.

Some places, such as Singapore and Hong Kong, are actively courting Asian tourists.

"We hope the Japanese who had wanted to go to Europe or the Middle East will choose Singapore instead," said Pek Hock Thiam, executive director of Singapore's Tourist Promotion

Australia, where overseas cancellations are running at around five per cent, has put together an advertising campaign to show

with USAIR Group Inc saying it would slash 3,585 jobs, cuts it

described as vital for the number

six airline to ride out a double

Cash-strapped Northwest Air-

lines outlined three options to

workers as ways of surviving its

current mess, the pilots' union

said. The carrier could merge,

sell, off routes or try and survive

NWA Inc., later denied it was

considering a merger or the sale

The key problem for the indus-

try is that costs are high and

Americans are loath to travel.

They are grappling with their first

recession in eight years as well as

with the fear of Iraqi-inspired attacks sparked by the Gulf war.

On top of this, the price of fuel

- carriers' second biggest cost -

has soared since the Iraqi inva-

sion, and airlines were burting

LONDON (R) - A new wave of

central bank intervention in

Europe Tuesday underpinned the

dollar and by midsession the

shaky U.S. currency was holding

above the morning's lows against

The dollar stood at 1.4548

marks by 1300 GMT, up from a

record low close in London of

1.4460 marks and well above its

record traded low of 1.4435

marks set in New York Monday.

it was quoted around 128.15 yen,

up from the 127.50 yen close.

Against the Japanese currency

The dollar was aided by a

coordinated round of buying by

central banks led, unexpectedly,

Thee Bundesbank said it

bought for marks in mid-morning

at around 1.4480 marks. The

central banks of Britain, Spein,

Sweden, France, Austria, Finalnd and Norway joined the

intervention, dealers and monet-

Dealers said the action aimed

ary officials said.

by Germany's Bundesbank.

the mark.

New European central

bank action lifts dollar

even before the war.

of its lucrative pacific routes.

The airline's parent company,

by workers concessions.

blow of recession and war.

from the Gulf war.

"We have seen the knee-jerk reaction and all the cancellations they brought," said Tony Thirlwell, managing director at the Australian Tourist Commission. "Now we are hoping to pick up business we may not otherwise have got.

Some Asian entrepreneurs have taken drastic measures.

In Beijing, foreigners must pay 95 yuan (\$18) to see an exhibition in the forbidden city. Locals pay five yuan (96 U.S. cents).

Resaurants in some hotels have added I0 per cent to food prices and raised the service charge from 10 to 15 per cent.

Vendors in Thailand are trying a different tack. With sales lagging for pirated cassette tapes and fake Rolex watches, many have turned to selling T-shirts emblazoned with a portrait of Saddam

U.S. air industry faces costly fares war, announces job cuts

CHICAGO (R) — There was yet more blood-letting in the airline industry Monday, with U.S. carnersamouncing big job cuts and stepping up a costly price war they can ill afford — but dare not

The fare war, coming on top recession and a real war, could not have come at a worst time, as U.S. carriers face their biggest shake-out since deregulation in

U.S. airlines could not help but

plan along as they fight for travelers left wary by war in the Mideast and recession at home. Trans World Airlines (TWA) said Monday it would cut fares by 50 per cent between Britain and six U.S. cities following British Airways' announcement Sunday that it would make a 33 per cent cut in rits popular 30-day advance purchase fares from London to

New York. TWA said tickets must be bought by Feb. 18 and are fully

One U.S. dollar

refundable. The discounts are available for travel until Oct. 31, A full, non-restricted one-way coach far from New York to London will fall to \$269 from

\$538 for midweek winter travel. Pau Am Corp., the other main U.S. carrier overseas, said it would match British Airway's cut but was expected to be competitive with the TWA fares as well.

Delta Air Lines said it would match the fares in flights from Atlanta and Cincinnati to London's Gatwick Airport. Delta does not fly to Heathrow, British Airways' main hub.

The industry's troubles have increased recently, with U.S. carriers Pan Am and Continental Airlines in bankruptcy and Eastern Airlines out of business as of last month.

The industry lost about \$2 billion in 1990, its worst year ever. As the U.S. economy began to slow, fliers stayed home.

The trouble spread Monday,

ary 11, 1991

Swedish crown 121.0 121.7 Italian fira (for 100) 60.4 60.8 Belgian tranc (for 10) 220.9 222.2

Canadian dollar

Deutschemarks

Dutch guilders

Belgian francs

French francs

Italian lire

Japanese yen

Swedish crowns

Danish crowns

Norwegian crowns

Central Bankpellicial rates mente dearmant and

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES ..

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession

on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

1.4548/55

1.6390/400

1.2458/65

4.9550/600

1094/1095

128.15/25

5.4675/25

5.6960/10

5,6020/70

One ounce of gold 362.35/362.85

29.90/95

662.0 666.0 1315.9 1323.8

Italian group plans hotel complexes in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — An Italian group led by the San Paulo Bank plans to invest between \$250 and \$300 million to develop tourist sites in

Tunisia, officials said Tuesday. The group comprises the bank, the Valtour tour operator, the Benedetti and Fibrescia companies, and the Investment and Trading company (ITC), and offshore firm based in Tunis.

The participants said in a statement they had formed the Tabarka company with capital of nearly \$8 million.

The group has taken out options on sites in the Tabarka seaside resort area north of Tunis and has plans to build hotel complexes with a total of 10,000 beds. ITC said the programme was

subject to approval by the Tuni-

to quash any notion that the U.S.

and German central banks dis-

agreed over the dollar's value,

after Bundesbank Deputy presi-

dent Helmut Schlesinger said in

an interview with Reuters Mon-

day that intervention at prevail-

ing dollar levels was not needed.

Schlesinger's comment was taken

to mean the Bundesbank would

allow a further slide in the dollar,

which has been weakened be-

cause U.S. interest rates are

weaker than those in Germany.

make a point. They want to kill

any rumours of disharmony be-

tween the Bundesbank and the

Fed." said Geoff Earnshaw, de-

puty head of strategic trading at National Westminister Bank in

Dealers said there was still

little news to push the currency

higher, while the expectation that

U.S. interest rates could decline

further pointed to more dollar

"The Bundesbank came in to

inflation squeezes World Council of Churches "income-generating abilities." CANBERRA (R) - Inflation

Foreign exchange loss,

and adverse exchange rates have put the squeeze on the World Council of Churches (WCC), forcing it to freeze staff numbers and to plan budget cuts.

We come to this assembly in a financial position worse than the last assembly and worse than was anticipated one year ago," Carol finance committee, told a news conference Tuesday at the council's seventh assembly.

The WCC represents 316 churches, excluding the Roman Catholic Church. It meets every seven years to formulate religious "Over the years since 1981

many external things have conspired against the council's finances," said Abel.

Rising inflation in Switzerland the council's home, has pushed WCC costs up hy more than 35

A weakening U.S. dollar and Deutschmark have also hurt the council's coffers as most donations are in U.S. dollars and most of its income is generated in marks.

Weak exchange rates have offset increases in donations from member churches, which have risen 70 per cent since 1981.

Abel said the council would look at ways of increasing its

Unisys suspends

She said it was not in debt but unless measures were taken the council would fall into the red. "The position the council finds

itself in is not that dissimilar to that which many industries, groups of commerce and churches across the world also find themselves in at the moment," Abel said. The council hopes that a staff

freeze will reduce numbers from 330 to 270 by the end of 1992. Wages account for between 60 and 70 per cent of the council's operating budget which does not include funds used for projects.

"It is not the policy of the council to dismiss people on financial grounds," Michael Davies, assistant general secretary of the council's finance committee, said.

The council's executive committee plans to cut the 1991 draft budget, set last September at 43.42 million Swiss francs (\$35.1 million) by 15 per cent. The final decision will be made at the assembly.

The council's 1990 budget was 42.11 million Swiss francs (\$34 million).

The 1991 budget does not include the cost of the seventh assembly or money donated to the WCC for relief and development projects.

The series A preferred stock

Unisys' common stock rose 50 cents a share to close at \$4 in

fell \$3 a share to close at \$8

Monday after Unisys' announce-

heavy trading. The common stock had risen sharply Friday as

well on rumors the company was

The company had \$3.7 billion in debt as of the Dec. 31, down from a peak of \$4.1 billion in the

middle of 1989. Its deht

mushroomed in the 1980s as pro-

about to announce asset sales.

Study shows American banks had a miserable year in 1990 regions sufferd the greatest loss in

NEW YORK (Agencies) — American banks had a miserable year in 1990, with profits plummeting and problem loans soaring, according to a study released

Overall, banks saw their nonperforming assets, or problem loans, rise 35 per cent to 3.03 per cent of assets in 1990, up from 2.24 per cent the year before, according to SNL Securities, a hanking research and publishing firm based in Charlottesville, Vir-

The group's survey of 1990 banking results showed that when write-offs for Third World loans are excluded, the nation's banks reported average return on assets was 0.54 per cent, a 40 per cent drop from the year before. Many of the nation's largest banks set aside millions in 1989 in one-time charges to cover failing loans to developing countries.

SNL spokeswoman Elisabeth Todaro said the company's research showed earnings were the worst since the 1930s depression, but she didn't provide figures for comparison.

The report provided stark evidence of the credit crunch, with banks' loan growth slowing to 1.89 per cent in 1990, down from 5.88 per cent the year before. The Federal Reserve has lowered interest rates in recent weeks to encourage banks to resume lending and stimulate economic

Banks in New England, the middle Atlantic and the southeast profitability when the Third World loan losses were excluded, the firm reported.

New England banks reported a loss of 0.51 per cent return on average assets for 1990, down from a 0.22 per cent loss from the year before. Banks in the sixstate region saw their ratio of bad loans to assets rise 77 per cent to 6.53 per cent in 1990. The average nationwide was 3.03 per cent. SNL reported.

Midwestern banks were the exception in the gloomy report. They reported the lowest ratio of bad loans to assets, 1.45 per cent, and the highest ratio of reserves to bad loans, 80.82 per cent.

Nationwide, the ratio of reserves to bad loans was 58.46 per The midwest was not plagued

by the steep increase in real estate prices and associated construction boom, generally regarded as the cause of banks' failing real estate portfolio.

Quarterly profits for midwestern banks were 0.94 per cent of assets in 1990, higher than the same period the year before, the company reported.

The Bush administration last week proposed the most fundamental reform of the ailing U.S. banking industry since the depression, but it could face opposition from Congress which seems wary of radical change.

The proposals aim to revitalise the banking industry and make it competitive internationally by

giving banks broad new powers, including the right to expand

But U.S. lawmakers, anxious to avoid a repeat of the multibillion-dollar taxpayer bailout of the savings and loan industry, are likely to move cautiously on deregulation of bank ownership and new areas of business, industry representative say.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said the reforms were designed to put the United States back on the map as a leading banking power.

"We are trying to do something that strengthens the American banking system, provides more services to the consumer and makes sure we do something about the situation where the top U.S. bank number 27 in the world," Brady told a news con-

ference The Treasury Department plan outlined by Brady would remove barriers between banking and commerce and permit industrial companies as well as securities and insurance firms to own

The reforms would allow banks to compete directly with Wall Street securities firms to get a slice of the lucrative market in underwriting stocks and bonds. Depression era banking laws barred commercial banks from the stock market, fearing they would suffer from its volatility. Many in Congress blame rapid

deregulation for the savings and

Brady said he recognised these

concerns would come up in Congress, but emphasised that banks are much better capitalised than the thrift industry was in the 1980s when its problems sur-

Brady said he believed the chances of steering the reform package through Congress were

"I see on both sides a willingness to move," he told reporters.

But congressional leaders have been quick to criticise the plan for giving banks new freedoms before stricter measures to supervise them are up and running.

The administration makes a mistake in proposing new and risky activities for banks before the supervisory and insurance reforms are in place and working," said representative Henry Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat and chairman of the House Banking

Michigan Democrat Donald Riegle, who is Senate Banking Committee chairman, said that boosting the shrinking bank deosit insurance fund and stronger bank supervision were more urgent priorities than the proposals on product deregulation and ownership of banks.

The industry's current problems stem largely from real estate loans that turned sour with the collapse in land values as the economy slid into recession. For many institutions the real estate troubles followed years of writing off problem loans to Third World

British Airways to cut more than 4,000 jobs

LONDON (R) — British Airways PLC said Monday it would 2,000 other staff on half pay due to rising costs and slumping pas-

senger numbers caused by the Gulf war and the tecession. The company said after talks with union teptesentatives it would cut 4,300 jobs in Britian and 300 overseas, mostly through voluntary redundancy.

British Airways said in a statent it "will be forced to reduce staff numbers following the tecent sharp downturn in world air travel and to counter the current exceptional circumstances created by war in the Middle East and deepening worldwide reces-

It said the trade unions supported the proposals to solve the problem and "secure the future prosperity of the airline."

Savings would be made in all areas worldwide "with a higher proportion of job losses amongst

The airline said it aims to cut 2.500 jobs by the end of March

as possible thereafter. Staff put on half pay "will be subject to tecall following notice from the company when traffic returns to more normal levels."

the company added. "With aitcraft flying some routes half empty we cannot afford to carry on as we are," said British Airways deputy chairman

Marshall. The airline sparked a trans-Atlantic airfare war Sunday with a 33 per cent cut in its regular return 30-day advance purchase fares from London to New York.

"We must reduce out cost hase to reflect the smaller numbers of passengers we are carrying now and for the foreseeable future. By taking action today we will protect our business and be ready to take advantage of future husiness and market opportunities," he

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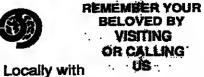
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The Flower Club







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RAINBOW Nabila Obeld / Salah Sadani The Path of Fear Arabic Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m. Tel: 677420 CONCORD

TOTAL RECALL

Performances: 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

ROBOCOB

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

LAMBADA

PLAZA

Tel: 625155

PHILADELPHI



Tel: 699238

BEACH GIRLS

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

dividends, to sell \$1b in assets BLUE BELL, Pennsylvania dividends once it resumes paying

(AP) — Unisys Corp. said Monday it suspended its preferred stock dividends and was trying to sell \$1 billion in assets, part of a plan by the troubled computer company to further reduce its

Unisys plans to pay off debt with the \$30 million normally paid each quarter to holders of preferred stock, spokesman Peter Hynes said from the company's headquarters. Unisys' move prompted Mood-

dy's Investors Service Inc., a maor credit-rating agency, to drop its rating of the preferred stock by Common stock dividends were suspended in September, giving

ter maker \$10 million each quarter to put toward debt reduction. Unisys has three classes of preferred stock. Series A is publicy traded on the New York Stock Exchange, while the \$150 million worth of stock in series B and C

Co. of Japan. Mitsui, a Japanese trading company, owns one-third of Unisys' Japanese subsidiary. Unisys sold the preferred stock to Mitsui last year to raise cash. The preferred stock is of the

step to provide additional funds for our debt-reduction effort," Unisys chairman and chief executive James Unruh said in a state-

are entirely owned by Mitsui and amount this year. Hynes said more than half of

the \$600 million would come from the sale of assets. The effort involves internally cumulative type, meaning Unisys generated funds and the sale of must make up for any missed non-core assets," Unruh said,

fits lagged and Unisys borrowed to pay dividends. "While we made significant progress in reducing debt during the nation's third-largest compu-1990, in this weakened and uncertain economic climate, suspension of the dividends is a prudent

> Unisys said it reduced its debt by \$600 million in 1990 and wants to reduce it by at least the same

Soviet premier says forces in West attempted economic coup

MOSCOW (R) - Soviet Prime Minister Valeutin Pavlov said in an interview onblished Tuesday that forces in the West tried to overtbrow President Mikbail Gorbaebev last month in an attempted economic coup.

Pavlov told the trade union daily Trud that he knew of plans to flood the country with billions of roubles to oust the Soviet leader and do away with Communist rule.

"There is nothing unique in it. Such actions have been carried out in many regions of the world in order to change a political system and oust inconvenient politicians," Pavlov said.

"President Gorbachev was get ting in someone's way," added Paviov, who was Soviet finance minister before being appointed

"I can assure you that in this matter, not days but bours played a role. We were threatened with a loss of economic independence, a kind of annexation, quiet and

bloodless," be said. "The weakening of our state-hood and loss of independence would mean the rapacious exploitation of our natural, buman and ecological resources. With all respect to Western civilisation. there should be no illusions about

Paylov said it was known a major injection of money into the Soviet Union had been prepared. This was done by different

MOSCOW (Agencies) - The

Soviet Union said Tuesday it had

agreed with its Warris Page and

the Warsaw treaty have con-

cluded that the time has come to

take steps to wind up the military

structure of the Warsaw Treaty

Organisation," said presidential

Ignatenko told a news confer-

ence that it had been agreed "to

Warsaw Pact foreign and de-

complete the process by April 1."

fence ministers will meet in

Budapest on Feb. 25 to scrap the

alliance's military role, Prime

Minister Jozsef Antall announced

Soviet President Mikhail Gor-

bachev, said the aim of the meet-

ing was to disband the pact's

Antall, quoting from a letter by

spokesman Vitaly Ignateuko.

"Those countries that make up

military structure by April.

ar ? 7: 1 \$

means, including the buying of 100 and 50 rouble notes.

"This (campaign) was joined by bank organisations in our country and a number of private banks in Austria, Switzerland and Canada. I will not name the banks, although I know their addresses." he said.

Asked where the Western banks had obtained such buge sums of Soviet roubles, Pavolv

"I still don't have the right to tell you about this and many other things, because the financial war which has been declared against us is still going on. And war is war."

Pavlov said the government had only averted financial catastrophe by withdrawing all 50 and 100 rouble notes late last month, a deeply nnpopular move throughout the country.

In the interview, Pavlov hinted the plan might be related to the Gulf crisis, but gave no further

A spokesman for the cabinet of ministers, the Soviet government, said: "The subject of the interview means he is satisfied, I think." In the interview, which covered almost a page of the newspaper, Pavlov also said that if the government failed to stop the country's present economic decline by March, society would be on the

"I would only say that with

1955 as a Soviet-led military

lance the West's North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation (NATO),

but has lost all significance with

the most of the countries' break

News of the planned meeting

was initially announced by

Czechoslovak President Vaclav

Havel, He said Monday that Gor-

bachev had called for a hig-level

Warsaw Pact gathering to decide

on ending the organisation's military role.

Officials from other Warsaw

Pact nations confirmed that simi-

lar letters had been received, but

Antall was the first to name a

The meeting appeared to re-place a Warsaw Pact summit that

had been set for November but

No reason was announced for

Moscow ready to wind up

Warsaw Pact's military role

with communism.

such losses in six months we will reach the level of destruction similar to the period of the (1918-1921) civil war," he said.

Several million people died during the civil war, which virmally destroyed the country's flourishing pre-war economy.

In a separate development, the United States Monday praised Lithnania's vote in favour of independence as an expression of popular will that should be taken into account in negotiations between the Baltic republic and Soviet anthorities.

Noting that over 76 per cent of all ebgible voters had supported Lithnanian independence from Moscow, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler

The people of Lithuania thus will have the right to use such a device to express their will. We hope that the results of such a poll will play a role in the upcoming negotiations between Moscow and Vibrius."

Over 90 per cent of the 2.65 million people who voted in Saturday's plebiscite backed the creation of "an independent and democratic republic," even in two beavily non-Lithnanian areas, a narrow majority voted "yes," demonstrating support for independence among the Russian and Polish minorities.

Tutwiler noted that Gorbachev issued a decree declaring the poll illegal but also that Soviet authorities allowed the vote to go for-

the postponement or the desision

to hold a lower-level meeting in-

turmoil within the Soviet Union

left Gorbachev no time to attend.

Antail and Havel bave been

among the most outspoken advo-

cates of an early end to the Pact

as a military organisation and its

complete dissolution soon after.

Other East European leaders

have given them increasing sup-

Antall, Havel and Polish Presi-

dent Lech Walesa planned to

meet in the Hungarian town of

Visegrad on Feb. 15 for a summit

expected to focus in part on the

Antali told the 31-nation su-

minit of the Conference on Secur-

ity and Cooperation in Europe

(CSCE) in November that he

hoped the Pact would stop ex-

The United States supports independence for the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. It never recognised their incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940 under the terms of a secret deal with Nazi

Noting that Latvia and Estonia were planning similar plebiscites in the next few weeks, Tutwiler

"Our position on this is that referenda carried out in a democratic manner are one of the internationally accepted means for the expression of the popular

Meanwhile, the Lithuanian parliament voted Monday to make a declaration of an independent, democratic state the basis of its proposed new con-

It also appealed to other nations to belp Lithuania to restore its pre-war independence as a full member of the world community. including participation in the Un-

The Baltic republic's information office said parliament, with 116 in favour and one abstention, voted to include the text of the weekend plebiscite in the first article of a draft "independence"

A second article would require the approval of 75 per cent of all voters to amend this key provision in any way.

2 top

Chinese

dissidents

sentenced

to 13 years

PEKING (R) - Two leaders of

China's pro-democracy move-

ment, crushed in 1989, were sent-

enced to 13 years in jail Tuesday,

the official New China News

Agency said. Chen Ziming and Wang Jun-

tao, condemned by the govern-

ment as "black hands", who mas-

terminded the demonstrations in

June, 1989, were convicted of

inciting to subvert the govern-

ment and the socialist system, it

The demonstrations were

Chen, 37, had been on hunger

crushed by army tanks and guns

in Peking's Tiananmen Square.

U.S. opens consulate . in Ukraine .

KIEV, U.S.S.R. (AP) - After 15 years of diplomatic wrangling, the United States is opening a consulate this month in the Ukrainian capital, drawing cheers from independence activists who are courting Western support.
U.S. officials, wary of stirring

trouble for President Mikhail Gorbachev, say the consulate's opening does not mean diplomatic recognition or support for an independent Ukraine, the second most populous of the 15 Soviet

"It's not our policy to confer recognision if the matter hasn't been resolved by the Soviets themselves," said a Western diplo-mat in Moscow who spoke on condition he not be identified.

U.S. officials note that if the Soviet Union had not invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the building might have opened a decade ago, when few people could conceive of Ukrainian secession.

France and Germany, which already have consulates in Kiev, also have remained neutral in the fray over independence.

Behind the diplomatic tiptoeing, however, is a clear U.S. recognition that the Ukraine is an industrial and agricultural power-house of 52 million people whose fature is important to the West. If it breaks away from the

Soviet Union, it will be Europe's largest country in territory and fifth-largest in population, after Germany, Italy, Britain and

Ukrainian independence activists welcome the opening of Western missions.

"Without question, we need Western contacts," said poet Ivan Drach, chairman of the Ruku Independence Movement. "We particularly need people who are here permanently, who can see and understand what is going on. because truth and knowledge are our only weapons.

The U.S. State Department originally decided to open the consulate in the 1970s in an exchange that involved opening a Soviet consulate in New York. It sent a 15-person advance team to Kiev and invested about \$1 milbon in renovations to three buildines for offices and housing.

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December 1979, however, then-President Jimmy Carter retaliated by cutting off government-sponsored exchanges, boycotting the Mos-cow Olympics and cancelling pains for the consulate.

After Gorbachev came to power in 1985 and U.S.-Soviet relarions warmed, plans for the consulate were renewed. But the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident, security concerns heightened by the alleged bugging of the new U.S. embassy in Moscow, and reciprocal limits on U.S. and Soviet diplomatic staff delayed

the project. In the last year, as the Ukrainian independence movement has grown, the United States has been pushing again to open the

Its legislature declared sovereignty from Moscow in July and called for a new constitution, an independent banking system and a separate currency. Lawmakers also approved legislation to exempt conscripted Ukrainians from serving in the Soviet Armed Forces outside the Ukraine, and to create its own military formations. That step has not actually been taken.

All of the major political groups in the republic, from the Communist Party to the Greens Movement, have endorsed the sovereignty claim.

Unlike the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, bowever, the Ukraine has not declared full independence.

"Sovereignty," in the Soviet lexicon, means only that the republic's laws take precedence over national ones. By the end of 1990, all the 15 republics had made such claims, creating what Soviet leaders call a "war of laws" that has paralysed government at all levels.

Until the new Ukrainian constitution is compelte, which could take at least a year, the republic's leaders have said they will not consider signing the new union treaty proposed by Gorbachev to hold the country together. The republic, however, is taking part in a March 17 nationwide referen-

dum on preserving the union. Support appears to be growing for Rukh, the powerful independence movement formed two years ago, It claims 700,000 duespaying members and 5 million

Two U.S. diplomats, Consul General Jon Gundersen and Consul John Stepanchuk, are scheduled to move to Kiev in late

Stepanchuk said they will not be able to perform full consular dunes.

Mandela, De Klerk hold talks on ANC's armed struggle

COPE TOWN (R) - African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela met South African President F.W. De Klerk Tuesday for secret talks about a faltering pact on the suspension of armed opposition to white rule, government sources said.

One source said Mandela and De Klerk, backed by senior officials and ministers, were trying to resolve a conflict on the sort of anti-apartheid action by Mandela's followers that could be tolerated under the agreement.

An ANC official confirmed the Mandela-De Klerk meeting in Cape Town was the first between the two this year, but refused to say more. This is not a public matter. I

have no right to be talking to you." he said.

The ANC and the government: differ on the proper interpretation of an agreement signed in Pretoria last August in which the ANC undertook to suspend its guerrilla war against aprtheid and to halt "related activities."

They believe mass action should be allowed and that they should be able to recruit and train people for their army. We disagree," a government source told

Government and opposition sources said a committee appointed by the two sides to resolve the matter failed to agree on a definition of "related activi-

They said the issue was refer-

red to Mandela and De Klerk earlier this month for direct nego-

riation. Officials declined to confirm that Mandela was at De Klerk's Tuynhuys office alongside parliament, saying that all meetings relating to the so-called Pretoria

minute were secret.

ANC official Reg September said nothing should be published about the talks until Mandela and De Klerk were ready to make a statement.

He declined to discuss the areas of difference between the ANC and the government on interpretation of the agreement to suspend the anti-apartheid bat-tle waged by the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Narion).

De Klerk opened the way for talks with the ANC a year ago when he lifted a 30-year-old banon the movement and freed Mandela from a 27-yar jail sentence for fighting white rule.

The two sides have agreed terms for the release of up to 3,500 political prisoners and for the safe return of up to 40,000

The ANC undertook to suspend its armed struggle but insists it retains the right to stage mass protests against apartheid.

De Klerk bas promised to begin negotiations with the ANC and other black groups as soon as possible on a transition from white rule to a non-racial demo-

Witness agrees to appear at Winnie Mandela's trial

JOHANNESBURG (R) - The trial of Winnie Mandela on charges of kidnapping and assault will go ahead after a key witness decided to testify in open court, state prosecutor Jan Swanepoel said Tresday,

He told the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg that Kenneth Kgase had been persuaded to take the stand Wednesday after consultations with his lawyers and the trial could therefore continue.

Swanepoel said earlier that Kgase and another prosecution witness were too scared to testify on their allegations that they had been kidnapped and assaulted by the wife of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Manidela and three co-accused.

Judge M.S. Stegmann agreed to adjourn the bearing until Wednesday at 0800 GMT. Swapepoel told the court that his witnesses were afraid to give evidence following the weekend

kidnapping of another witness, Gabriel Mekgwe, from the pro-

tection of a church in Saweto

Mekgwe has not been found, and a South African newspaper Tuesday reported that be was seen leaving the safe custody of a church hostel in Soweto Sunday

night with a senior ANC official. It was not known whether Mekewe left the hostel voluntarily, the Johannesburg Star said. There was no immediate response from the ANC.

Peru's cholera epidemic threatens Latin America

LIMA (R) - Latin America's first cholera epidemic in decades has struck nearly 9,000 people in Peru, killing 66, and threatens to spread across the continent, bealth experts say.

The epidemic has swamped hospitals in Peru and alarmed neighbouring countries, some of which have banned Peruvian food imports in what the experts called a vain attempt to contain the discase's spread.

Cholera, usually carried by contaminated water or fish, is spreading fast in this impoverished country where raw sewage is pumped into the Pacific and

rivers supplying drinking water.
The Health Ministry reported 8.566 cases by Monday, more than double the figure from four days earlier. At least 66 people have died from the bacterial disease, which can cause death from debydration in three to four

"Cholera is a disease of the

poor, and that makes all of Latin America vulnerable," said Dr. Utiel Garcia, a former Peruvian Health Minister.

"If I were the mayor of Bogota or Caracas, I would be checking my city's water system right now to make sure it wasn't mixing with sewage," he told Reuters, referring to the Colombian and Venezuelan capitals.

About 40 per cent of Lima's water supply is contaminated by fecal matter, a study commissioned by the mayor's office

The Health Ministry advised Peruvians to boil drinking water for 10 minutes, stay away from polluted beaches and abstain from eating raw fish or shellfish, two staples of the Peruvian diet.

The disease has been virtually absent from Latin America since the 1920s.

Hospitals have been stretched to the breaking point.

in front of her children

A television anchorwoman who day didn't rule out other suspects. WUMO-TV in Battle Creek, Michigan, was shot twice Saturtwo young children out of her car.

Police searched the farmhouse where Newton King, 34, and her busband, former police officer Bardford King, lived with their 3-year-old son and 3-month-old

had just returned from her native Detroit when she was shot with a small-calibre gun as the youngsters remained strapped into their car seats. Her husband discovered the body int he driveway, Olson said.

note months earlier, Calhoun

been harassing her.
"She had been received calls

from a male who had wanted to The caller asked if she wanted to

ter in the mail and this letter was composed from either using print

the calls and letter began in July and ended in October.

COLUMN

Schools try paying parents to help kids learn

OAKLAND, California (AP) -An inner-city school is trying a new tactic to interest parents in their children's education: They're paying them. The experimental programme at Webster Elementary School in East Oakland pays parents \$100 each for taking an 11-week programme. for teaching ways of helping children in the classroom and with homework. Nine parents have graduated, picking up \$100 plus a \$50 bonus for achieving goals set out at the start of the programme. The programme, which costs be tween \$15,000 and \$20,000, may be extended to another elementary school in the spring, school officials said. "It's some what controversial," said Paul Brekke-Miesner, director of the local school district's health and safety programme. "Some people think parents should assume responsibility on their own. In a perfect world that might be the case, but this isn't a perfect world." Those who do not complete the programme don't get paid. One parent who did, Patricia McTyer, 39 said "I would * have taken it anyway. We got so much out of it. I want to help my child to be a better student. The \$100 just made it sweeter," said McTyer, who was a second-grader at Webster.

Cocaine found in 3 bananas shipments

TAMPA, Florida (AP) - Store

clerks unpacking bananas from

Colombia found about 74 pounds (33 kilograms) of cocaine in three crates, authorities said. The first illegal stash was discovered in Indiana and two were discovered in different Florida cities. All three crates were imported by Turbana Corp. of Coral Cables, said Brad Knutter, assistant special agent for the U.S. Customs Service. The Florida-bound shipments entered the United States through Tampa and the shipment sent to Indiana was imported through Bridgeport, Connecticut. Robert Lounsbery, Turbana's vice president of operations, said his company had no knowledge of the cocaine. Turbana has armed guards on ships, searches vessels and takes other security steps, but "it's not possible to be a hundred per cent effective." he said. Terre Haute, Indiana, produce workers found 30 pounds (13 kilograms) of cocaine and a package of methamphetamine, police said. Employees at a public super market in Crystal River. Florida, found about 22 pounds (10 kilograms) of cocaine.

Another 22 to 26.4 pounds of the drug were found in a crate at a Publix in Orlando, Knutter said. Produce crates are popular with smugglers because authorities can't search all of the thousands transported on each ship, Knutter said. The smuggiers often are stowaways who retrieve the cocaine once the crates are un-

Nureyev will not stop dancing

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) - Ballet dancer Rudof Nureyev. says fans should pay no attention to the fact that his current tour is billed at "Nureyev And Friends: The Farewell Tour." "This is not. a farewell tour," he said in an interview in the Tennessean newspaper. 'It was not my idea. to call it that. There are so many requests for engagements to dance still coming in that I see not point in stopping." Nureyev. defected from the Soviet Union in 1961 and has danced with more than 30 of the world's major dance companies since then. He also has choreographed more than 25 productions. But he doesn't expect to stop any time soon. "I feel good and it keeps me healthy, so I don't know when I'll stop. If work comes along you do it, and you just don't take a vacation."

Hotel offers iove-in-a life package

change from the usual flowers and chocolates on Valentine's Day? Why not wine and dine your lover while travelling up and down in a glass bubble lift on and down in a glass bubble lift on the outside of a 37-storey building screnaded by an opera single or a violimist. Singapore's Range Pacific Hotel is offering all the as part of its "love in an elegator" package. The price is 1.465 Singapore dollars (\$860), ing breakfast and a night hotel spite. totel suite.

was postponed on short notice. military functions by April 1. This will be a historical moisting by early 1992 at the latest. Havel Monday snggested At that gathering, Gorbachev Czechoslovakia cooperate more closely with NATO, calling the and other Warsaw Pact leaders ment in the life of the nation." bad been expected to formally Antall proclaimed. Western military alliance announce the end of the Pact as a military alliance.

The Pact is made up of the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland and

START treaty still eludes negotiators WASHINGTON (AP) - A treaty to cut about 30 per cent of the deadliest nuclear weapons in U.S. and Soviet arsenais still is

eluding negotiators, the State Department has said. Three unresolved technical issues were listed by spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler. They involve the exchange of information from missile flight tests, a definition of new missiles and what is known as "downloading."

This refers to how many warheads could be taken off one kind of long-range missile and used on other missiles. The strategic arms reduction treaty (START) would limit each side to 1,600 warheads.

Failure to conclude the accord was cited last month by U.S.

President George Bush as a reason for postponing the summit meeting scheduled for this week with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbahev.

In the meantime, a treaty signed in November to cut nonnnclear weapons in Europe is enmeshed in compliance disputes. The major one concerns transfer of three Soviet divisions to naval duty. That way their weapons would not bave to be destroyed under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agree-

Secretary of State James Baker told Congress last week be had recommended to Bush be not submit the treaty to the Senate for ratification unless the disputes

issues. Tutwiler said. she said.

Reginald Barthomolew, the under secretary of state for international security affairs, headed the U.S. delegation in Geneva. He returned to Washington Sunday. Talks will be continued in Geneva under the direction of

"Some important issues still need to be closed out," Tutwiler

the conventional arms dispute.

START negotiator.

were cleared up.

American and Soviet negotiators met for four days last week in Geneva but were unable to settle the strategic weapons

They also spent little time on

Richard R. Burt, the U.S.

strike since Thursday to demand more time to prepare his defence. Wang, 32, believed suffering from hepatitis, was reported by Europe's sole international body

friends to have been hospitalised that follows democratic rules. The two were found guilty of bringing together illegal organisations and conducting "a series of activities to subvert the government," the agency said.

They also organised and directed "the interception of and attacks against the armed forces that were enforcing martial law and belping safeguard public

The beavy sentences were handed down because the two "had so far shown no willinginess to repent," the agency siad.

A third key dissident, Liu Gang, was given six years in prison. The agency said this was a

mitigated sentence" because be

acknowledged his crimes and

showed willingness to repent. The agency did not spell out what Lin was convicted of, saving only be "committed serions

Liberian capital recovers slowly from civil war

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) -Open shops and traffic jams in the busy waterside market show civilisation is returning to this war-ravaged capital. Instead of gunmen fighting in the streets. taxis and buses now compete for gasoline with relief convovs and stolen Mercedes Benz cars.

Although a solution to the war that left more than 10,000 dead remains elusive, refugees are returning. The city's brewery has reopened at one-tenth of capacity when water is available, cutting the price of a bottle of beer from SS to less than S1. Relief supplies are arriving, but the quantity falls short of the

5.700 tonnes a month needed to feed the city, according to a U.S. embassy estimate. The population, which had dropped to 80,00, has returned to its previous level of about 500,000, the embassy Troops from the five-nation West African intervention force

have cleared warring factions

from the capital's streets and

chased them into the countryside.

Lome, Togo. But the city remains scarred by the destruction of ethnic hatred. and the population doubt that self-appointed leaders can reach the necessary political accommodations to avert more blood-

been trucked farther out of town. Luxury cars stolen from homes of the rich cruise the city, with looters behind the wheel. Along United Nations drive.

Roadside mountains of debris,

the distinctive odor of rotting flesh remains in the tall grasses. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has cleaned St. Peter's Lutheran Church of the corpses of hun-

government soldiers last July in a

tribal massacre. After burying body parts in a the victims were hacked to death with machetes. The church will stand as a memorial to the vic-

the aftermath of looting, have

dreds of people butchered by

common grave, authorities found few bullet-holes in the floor or walls of the church, suggesting Ceasefire negotiations among tims, according to Lutheran them were expected to begin in . Bishop Ronald Diggs.

Bands of orphans roam the streets looking for cash and rice. openly contemptuous of children who chose Western-run orphanages over life on the run. Brutality is commonplace. A Western correspondent saw a crowd beat a child nearly to death for stealing two donuts.

Mothers send their children into deserted homes looking for furniture to burn under curbside pots of oil cooking balls of dough.

When a local supermarket reopened last week, its battered shelves offered an odd assortment of goods - hair straightener. capers and bread stuffing for chickens that haven't been seen in months.

Cattle: imported for the peacekeeping force graze in the road, median watched by armed guards. Few dogs, cats, or rats bave escaped the bunt for surviv-

The municipal airport is open

but bribes are required to confirm

seats on flights to Freetown, Sier-

ra Leone, where businessmen travel to buy liquor. The interim government has enlisted a police force without many uniforms, weapons, or cars. Public confidence in the Volunteer Department was growing until a police commander was caught last week robbing a bank.

Rebel commandos primed by

months of combat in the bush

find it difficult to adjust to solving arguments without resorting to assault rifles. Palm wine fuels threats of revenge for comrades slain by rival factions. Few Liberians hold out much hope for an early settlement of the war that began on Dec. 24. 1989, with an invasion of rebels

from neighbouring Ivory Coast.

In the interim the rebels split into

two groups, President Samuel

Doe was captured and killed and

Liberian refugees set up an in-

term government. Monrovians are mindful of Interim President Amos Sawyer's threat to raise an army if the chief rebel leader Charles Taylor fails to agree to a ceasefire in negonationse in Lome, Togo. Dozens of meetings aimed at ending the war have failed to produce a

February.

U.S. T.V. anchorwoman killed

MARSHALL, Michigan (AP) was vexed by threatening calls and a letter from a man she rebuffed was shot to death in her driveway, but investigtors Mon-Diane Netwon King of day night as she turned to get her

daughter. Investigators also searched weed-choked fields surrounding the home in southern Michigan.

Newton King and her children

Authorities were not limiting their search for a suspect to an anonymous male admirer who sent Newton King a threatening Count Sherif Jon Olson said at a

news conference. Sheriff's deputies last year investigated threats against Newton King but made no arrests, Sheriff's Lt. Terry Cook said earlier. About two weeks ago, Newton King mentioned in a telephone converstion the general manager of a Colorado TV station where she used to work that a man had

get into the broadcasting business and was asking for her advice," Jan Hammer, general manager of Colorado TV Station KJCT, said. have lunch with him and she de-"She supposedly received a let-

or magazine letters that had been cut out and said something to the effect that "you'll be sorry you didn't have hunch with me." WUHQ Vice President Mark Crawford said the station informed authorities about the calls and letter at the time. Olson said SINGAPORE (R) — Care for a